

Hunger-striking Palestinian woman taken to Israeli prison hospital

BETHLEHEM (AFP) — A Palestinian woman prisoner was moved Friday to a hospital in "dangerous condition" after 17 days on hunger strike to demand her release, a prisoners' rights group said.

Ita Ayyan, 35, "was taken from Telmond prison to the Ramleh military hospital today for treatment," said Issa Qaraqeh, head of the Prisoners' Club rights group in the West Bank town of Bethlehem.

"She is in a dangerous condition because of her hunger strike," Mr. Qaraqeh told Agence France Presse.

Ayyan, an Islamic Jihad member, has been on a hunger strike since she was arrested on Oct. 21 outside Bethlehem amid a general crackdown by the Israeli army against Islamists launched in August.

She has since been held without charges under Israel's administrative detention policies, Mr. Qaraqeh said.

Meanwhile, 20 local political figures, including members of the Palestinian Legislative Council, launched a two-day hunger strike in solidarity with Ayyan while they held a sit-in in a tent in front of Bethlehem's Red Cross headquarters.

At the same time, several

hundred students held a demonstration at Bethlehem University demanding Israeli release of Palestinians held in its prisons. The students knocked over two mock prison cells and burned Israeli flags.

A number of solidarity hunger strikes and similar demonstrations are planned for the next two weeks throughout the West Bank, Mr. Qaraqeh said.

Israel committed in interim peace accords with the self-rule authority signed in 1995 to release its Palestinian prisoners. It currently holds nearly 4,000 prisoners.

A total 880 of those are held without charge in administrative detention, nearly two thirds of them arrested in the wide crackdown launched by Israel after a pair of Jerusalem bombings in the summer, according to the Prisoners' Club.

In February, Israel released 30 Palestinian women prisoners in a deal reached between Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and the Palestinian National Authority.

Ayyan was among those women prisoners, as was another woman, Nadia Dheeb Haddad, who was also re-arrested in late October.



Palestinian students from Bethlehem University perform their interpretation of how Israeli jailors abuse Palestinian prisoners on Friday. Hundreds of students gathered to watch the play which included the 'beating of prisoners' and the symbolic burning of Israeli flags (Reuters photo)

EU should enhance role in Mideast peace — Austria

DAMASCUS (R) — Austrian Defence Minister Werner Fasslabend said the European Union (EU) should strengthen its role in the Arab-Israeli peace process because Europe and the Middle East share the same security concerns.

"The EU engagement should be strengthened in the future," Mr. Fasslabend told Reuters late on Thursday after talks with Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Sharaa and Defence Minister Mustafa Tlas.

"Europe and the Middle East are neighbours and both have the same security problem and should coop-

erate to achieve peace in the region," he said.

Mr. Fasslabend said the Syrian officials believed there would be no peace unless Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu accepted to return the Golan Heights, occupied by the Jewish state since the 1967 Mideast war, in return for peace.

"We talked about the Middle East security issues and they made clear that there won't be real peace as long as Netanyahu was still at his political line of confrontation," he said.

The Syrian politicians also underlined that it

would be necessary for the United States to put pressure on Israel, otherwise there would be no development in the peace process."

Mr. Fasslabend is scheduled to visit the United Nations Disengagement Observer Forces (UNDOF) stationed in the Golan. The force which serves as a buffer between Syria and Israel includes around 400 Austrian soldiers.

Slovakia is considering joining the forces within the Austrian contingent but the issue should be approved by the Slovakian parliament first, he said.

Egyptian president on official visit to Bahrain

MANAMA (AFP) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak arrived in Bahrain from Oman Friday for an official visit at the invitation of Emir Sheikh Issa Bin Salman Al Khalifa, the official news agency GNA reported. The talks between the two countries will focus on "ways to relaunch the Middle East peace process and the prospects for bilateral cooperation in various fields," the news agency said.

Mr. Mubarak is accompanied by Prime Minister Kamal Al Ganzouri and Foreign Minister Amr Musa.

In Oman, the Egyptian president met Sultan Qaboos Wednesday, at Salalah in the southwestern province of Dhofar. They discussed the "efforts

deployed by the international community to give a new impetus to the peace process in the Middle East, as well as on bilateral cooperation," an Egyptian diplomat told Agence France Presse.

President Mubarak is on his way back from a summit of the G-15 states in Kuala Lumpur. The G-15 was set up in 1989 as a counterweight to the influence of the powerful G-7 industrialised nations. During a stopover in Abu Dhabi on his way to Kuala Lumpur, Mr. Mubarak said he saw "no point to the Doha economic conference [for the Middle East and North Africa] because of the current Israeli government's failure to respect the agreements reached" with the Arabs.

Japan looking for better ties with S. Arabia

TOKYO (AFP) — A brief 24-hour visit by Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto to Saudi Arabia — Japan's second largest petroleum provider — is not without significance as Tokyo reaches out to diversify its supply.

The trip to Riyadh by Mr. Hashimoto on Saturday at the invitation of Saudi King Fahd Ben Abdul Aziz bears witness to Tokyo's priority in developing better ties at a time when the two countries are due to renegotiate an oil contract that expires in 2000.

Japan's leading petroleum firm, Arabian Oil Co., has a concession at Khafji in the neutral zone between Saudi Arabia and Kuwait and has controlled it since 1960.

Saudi Arabia supplies 20 per cent of Japan's oil consumption and the company must secure future rights within the three years to the expiration of its contract. "Renewing these rights has a major impact on the security of energy supply for Japan," the Yomiuri Shimbun newspaper recently quoted an unidentified high-ranking official as saying.

However, a Foreign Ministry official said, "I do not think it will be one of the main issues which will be discussed," noting that contract talks are carried out directly between the company and Saudi authorities.

There are no businessmen in Mr. Hashimoto's delegation.

Opposition presses Yemeni government to reverse Qatar conference decision

SANAA (AFP) — Yemen's Islamist opposition urged the government to reverse its decision, to attend the Doha economic conference because of Israel's participation, newspapers here reported Friday.

The Islah Party "deplores the fact that many Arab

countries have given in to American pressure and decided to take part in this capitulationist conference," a statement carried by the papers said.

Yemeni President Abdullah Saleh announced that his country would take part in the Doha conference during

an official visit to Amman Oct. 27. Apart from Yemen, only the host, Qatar, and Jordan have said they will definitely attend the Middle East and North Africa economic conference, planned for Nov. 16-18.

But President Saleh added that the size and seniority of

the delegation Yemen would send to the conference would depend on having "an Arab consensus for the meeting."

The Islah "urges the Yemeni leadership not to take part in this forum," the party's statement said.

But it added that its position "should in no way be

seen as being directed at fraternal Qatar or as a sign of ingratitude for its positions towards Yemen." Yemen decided to take part in the Doha conference to reward Qatar for its support against a secession attempt in 1994, an official daily said last week.

"We are opposed to the

holding of this capitulationist conference. Its economic dimension is merely a cover at a time when the government of the Zionist enemy is terrorising the Palestinian people and defying international resolutions," the Islah statement said.

The Islah Party formed part

of a coalition with ruling General People's Congress until the formation of a new government after elections in April. U.S. envoy Martin Indyk toured regional states, including Yemen and the Gulf states, this week to try and persuade them to attend the Doha conference.

Iranian FM in Syria as part of Arab tour

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iranian Foreign Minister Kamal Kharazi left here Friday for Syria as part of a tour which will also take him to all Gulf Arab states, the official Iranian news agency, IRNA, reported.

Mr. Kharazi told IRNA before departing that he was carrying a message of "friendship and good will" from President Mohammad Khatami to all the Arab leaders of the neighbouring Arab states.

"We hope for a new condition in relations between Iran and the Arab coun-

tries of the region," he said. "Strengthening ties and boosting cooperation with the Muslim countries of the region is a top priority of our foreign policy."

He said the trip was important in light of the summit of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) in Tehran in December.

"We see a clear horizon for future cooperation among Muslim countries," Mr. Kharazi said.

Iran's new government has several times in recent months shown a desire to

strengthen relations with Saudi Arabia and other Arab states.

Tehran and Riyadh recently strengthened cooperation within such international groupings as the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and the OIC.

Tehran and Riyadh have had tense relations since the 1979 Islamic revolution in Iran, and the annual Muslim pilgrimage to Mecca has often led to frictions between them.

In Damascus, Mr. Kharazi is expected to hold talks with Syrian

counterpart Farouq Al Sharaa on bilateral relations and the upcoming OIC summit. Syria is Iran's closest ally in the Middle East. The two foreign ministers will also discuss developments in the Israeli-Arab peace process and the situation in south Lebanon.

The Syrian ambassador in Iran, Ahmad Al Hassan, told IRNA that the two countries would seek cooperation with respect to recent developments in the region.

Italian president visits south Lebanon

NAQOURA (R) — Italian President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro drove deep into Israel's self-declared security zone in south Lebanon on Friday after telling the Lebanese parliament he backed the country's full independence.

At the coastal town of Naqoura, four kilometres north of the Israeli border, President Scalfaro inspected the 52-strong Italian air wing, part of the U.N. peacekeeping force in southern Lebanon.

Earlier on Friday the Italian president told Lebanon's parliament his country fully supported Beirut's demand for an immediate Israeli withdrawal from the self-declared occu-

pation zone as ordered by U.N. Security Council Resolution 425. "United Nations Resolution 425 must be respected, and Israel withdraw from occupied Lebanese land," Mr. Scalfaro said, speaking in Italian while members followed texts translated into Arabic and French.

Syria and Lebanon link any progress in Middle East peace negotiations to an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights, occupied by Israel since the 1967 Mideast war, and south Lebanon. Parts of south Lebanon have been continuously held by Israeli troops since 1978.

"Your visit to the Lebanese parliament and to south Lebanon will spread European dynamism in the framework of the European support for ensuring peace for Lebanon through ending the occupation and Israeli threats," Nabih Berri, the speaker of parliament said in reply to Mr. Scalfaro.

Lebanon and Syria, which has some 35,000 troops in Lebanon, have sought a larger European role in the U.S.-dominated Middle East peace process. Talks have made almost no progress since the election of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in May 1996.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 77311-19

PROGRAMME TWO

14:10 Twinkle
14:30 Muppet Show
15:00 Pumpkin Patch
15:15 World of Geo
16:00 The Valley Between
16:30 Neighbours
17:00 French programmes
19:00 Le Journal
19:30 News headlines
20:00 The Newly Weds
20:30 Prism
21:10 Time Trax
22:00 News in English
22:30 Feature film "Canvas"
23:59 Ellen

PRAYER TIMES

04:34 Fajr
05:53 (Sunrise) Dhuha
11:19 Dhuhur
14:19 'Asr
16:45 Maghreb
18:04 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Swatfeh, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church Tel.
632785.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation
Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661656.
Terra Sancta Church Tel.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

622366

Church of the Annunciation
Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 652826.

Armenian Catholic Church
Tel. 771331.

Armenian Orthodox Church
Tel. 775261.

St. Ephraim Church Tel.
771751.

Amman International Church
Tel. 5516245

Evangelical Lutheran Church
Tel. 824328.

German-speaking Evangelical
Congregation Tel. 845457

The Latter-Day Saints Tel.
654932.

Church of Nazareth Tel.
675691.

The Evangelical Local Church
in Amman Tel. 811295

English-speaking
Latin Catholics Parish Tel.
614190.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology
Skies will be partly cloudy with a chance of occasional scattered showers and winds southeasterly moderate to active. In Aqaba, it will be

dusty, skies partly cloudy with a chance of scattered showers. Winds will be northerly moderate to active and seas choppy.

Min/Max temp.

Amman 11/21

Aqaba 17/27

Deserts 08/22

Jordan Valley 17/27

Yesterday's high temperatures:

Amman 21 Aqaba 27 Humidity

readings: Amman 50 per cent,

Aqaba 45 per cent.

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Hanna Mansour 750197

Dr. Ahi Shukri 898863

Dr. Nidal Dahleh 827195

Dr. Sa'ad Tawfiq 788285

Firas pharmacy 661912

Ferdows pharmacy 778336

Al Asena pharmacy 637055

Nahrain pharmacy 623672

Al Salam pharmacy 636730

Yacoub pharmacy 644945

Shmeisani pharmacy 637660

Najib pharmacy 847632

IRBID:

Dr. Ahmad Qanu 281484

Al Quds pharmacy (-)

ZARQA:

Dr. Ra'ib Atallah 994224

Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341

Rescue Police 192, 621111,

637777

Fire Brigade 617101

Blood Bank 775121

Highway Police 843402

Traffic Police 896390

Public Security Department 630321

Hotel Complaints 605800

Price Complaints 661176

Water and Sewerage Complaints 897467

Amman Municipality Complaints 787111

Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121

Overseas Calls 010230

Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101

Abdali Telephone Repairs

661101

Jordan Television 773111

Radio Jordan 774111

Water Authority 680100

Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power Company 636381

RJ Flight Information 08-

53200

Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-

53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32

Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 642816

Akileh Maternity, J. Amn 642441/2

Jabal Amman Maternity 642362

Mafias, J. Amman 636140

Palestine, Shmeisani 607071

Shmeisani Hospital 669131

University Hospital 845845

Al-Munasher Hospital 667227/9

The Islamic, Abdali 666126/37

Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6

Italian, Al-Muthajreen 777101/3

Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26

Army, Marka 891611/15

Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50

Amal Hospital 674155

The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 865199

ZARQA:

Zarga Govt. Hospital 09983323

Zarga National Hospital 09900560

Ibn Sina Hospital 09986732

Al Hikam Modern Hospital 09990990

IRBID:

Princess Basma Hospital 02127555

Greek Catholic Hospital 02127275

Ibn Al Nafes Hospital 021247100

AQABA:

Princess Haya Hospital 03131411

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA

INTERNATIONAL

AIRPORT

This information is supplied by

Royal Jordanian (RJ) information

department at the Queen Alia

International Airport Tel.

(08)53200 where it should

always be verified. Information

on other flights is obtained on

telephone (08) 52700 or (08) 523250.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights

07:15 Aqaba (RJ)

08:25 Damascus (RJ)

09:30 New Delhi (RJ)

10:05 Colombo (RJ)

10:05 Beirut (RJ)

10:15 Karachi, Dubai (RJ)

10:20 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)

14:45 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)

16:20 Cairo (RJ)

17:40 London, Berlin (RJ)

19:30 Frankfurt (RJ)

05:15 Bangkok (RJ)

Revolution anniversary highlights rift between Yeltsin, former comrades

MOSCOW (AFP) — President Boris Yeltsin condemned the bloodshed caused by the 1917 October Revolution as around 10,000 Communists marched through central Moscow Friday to mark the 80th anniversary of the Bolshevik seizure of power.

Braving heavy snow and sleet, hardline Communists, most of whom were aged over 40, turned out in strength to protest against Mr. Yeltsin's market reforms and commemorate the revolution, waving red flags and accompanied by Soviet-era songs blaring through loudspeakers.

Addressing his supporters in front of the Lubyanka — once a notorious prison for victims of the Stalinist terror — Communist Party leader Gennady Zyuganov called for "the rebirth of Socialist Russia and of the ideas of the Great October Revolution."

The anniversary date became Nov. 7 under the Gregorian calendar introduced after the revolution. Some of the marchers Friday sported fascist-style red flags with a white circle in the centre and the Communist hammer-and-sickle symbol in black, although traditional Soviet red flags predominated.

During the decades of Soviet rule, the revolution anniversary was celebrated with giant parades on Red Square featuring military hardware.

Mr. Yeltsin, 66, stressed Friday that it was important not to sweep history under the carpet, and urged Russians to remember the events which shaped their lives while enjoying the new public holiday called "Concord and Reconciliation Day."

Mr. Yeltsin, who was instrumental in dismantling the Soviet Union as Russian president in 1991, said the Bolshevik revolution "triggered the conflict in the heart of society" and "pushed Russians into a fratricidal civil war." "Ordinary human values were sacrificed in the name of political fanaticism."

"The revolution cut us off for a long time from the international community. It turned us into a scarecrow for other peoples and countries," Mr. Yeltsin said in a pre-recorded speech broadcast on national ORT television.

However, he said it would be wrong to scrap the anniversary of the revolution, which he described as "a historical lesson."

"Today we have a duty to

remember all those who died in the internecine conflict. And also to understand and pardon those who made this fateful historic mistake: the mistake of putting a Utopian ideal above the lives of people."

Mr. Yeltsin, Russia's first democratically elected president, announced that a memorial would be built soon to all the victims of the civil war, in which the Bolshevik Red Army defeated Tsarist forces who were backed by foreign powers.

Millions died in the civil war, which was accompanied by widespread famine, and millions more died later during Stalin's terror and World War II.

However, such horrors were far from the minds of the diehard Communists celebrating Friday. They heard Mr. Zyuganov proclaim that "revolutions happen when a deep rift divides the people from the authorities" — suggesting that the situation in 1997 was as critical as that which sparked the 1917 revolution.

"The authorities' appeals for peace and reconciliation are futile. Millions of unemployed and refugees cannot accept such a peace," Mr. Zyuganov said.

Yuri Bus, a 59-year-old Communist supporter, told

AFP: "The young don't understand how bad the situation is."

"They're drinking, doing a bit of business, they're able to buy some old imported car and think they've got it made, but they haven't."

In contrast, Mr. Yeltsin said Russia had entered a new era, in line with his appeal for national reconciliation a year ago.

"The time has gone when we (Russians) were a super-power whose people lived in poverty, when we were the pioneers of the cosmos but drove along potholed roads."

"It is now the time for people's daily lives to become the state's most important concern — its chief value."

Former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, reviled as a "traitor" by Mr. Zyuganov's supporters, told Interfax news agency that the present Communist Party "is blocking the formation of a true left-wing opposition."

Condemning Mr. Zyuganov and his supporters for having "got stuck with outdated approaches," Mr. Gorbachev said they had "paved the way to the disintegration of the country completed by Boris Yeltsin and his team."



A Russian Communist raises his fist as he stands in front of an image of Vladimir Lenin, the founder of the Soviet state, during a demonstration celebrating the 80th anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution (Reuters photo)

European Union urges Japan, U.S. to strengthen targets on global warming

TOKYO (AFP) — The European Union Friday called on Japan and the United States to strengthen their proposals for cutting so-called greenhouse gases blamed for global warming.

EU Commissioner for the Environment Ritt Bjerregaard said the Dec. 1 U.N. conference on climate change in Kyoto would be critical and urged Tokyo to take a lead to ensure success.

"With all the evidence of

climate change on the table it is quite clear that we need to have a successful conference," she told a media conference here ahead of informal preparatory talks in

Tokyo at the weekend. Taking 1990 greenhouse gas emissions as their base, Europe is calling for a 15 per cent cut by 2010, Japan for a five per cent cut by 2008 to 2012 and the United States for no change by 2008 to 2012.

"We need to be ambitious because this is a very serious problem that we are trying to solve," Ms. Bjerregaard said.

"A 15 per cent reduction can be made, it is an economically sound way, politically feasible, and technically realistic," she added. "All the governments in the European Union are very committed to this target."

The EU official said she hoped Tokyo would take a leading role to achieve success in Kyoto. She hoped it would improve its five per cent offer and help pressure Washington to bolster the U.S. commitment.

"I would like to see the Japanese government being more ambitious," Ms. Bjerregaard said. "I am still hoping that the five per cent figure is not the last figure from the Japanese government."

"I have absolute high hopes for the Japanese leadership for this conference."

Members of the conference should not give up on the United States joining a

Kyoto deal, she said. Washington has been reluctant to improve its offer and is calling for developing nations to join at Kyoto.

"I do not think that we should give up the United States," said Ms. Bjerregaard. "We want the U.S. on board, we want Japan to work hand in hand with us to push the United States to accept a more ambitious target."

Asked whether there would be another conference if Kyoto failed to come to an agreement, she replied: "What we need now is a decision. What we need is political courage."

Hindu nationalists woo Congress in bid to form new government

NEW DELHI (AFP) — India's Hindu nationalists, the country's largest parliamentary party, said Friday they were ready to try and form a new government if they could win the support of defectors from a rival group.

Leader Lal Krishna Advani told The Economic Times newspaper that his Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP, Indian People's Party) could make a bid for power if there was a split in the Congress I, India's second largest party.

India is currently ruled by a minority coalition of more than a dozen disparate parties, which is kept in power by Congress backing. The BJP heads the opposition.

Mr. Advani said the BJP, which formed a government last year following hung elections but which was lost power within a fortnight after failing to win a majority, had not intended "to make another try at government formation" before the next general elections.

But he added: "Suddenly, the situation has changed." He said "absolutely no bargaining" was going on but that if a third of the Congress party defected "we are willing to consider."

Under Indian law, at least a third of a party — Congress has 140 members out of 545 in India's lower house, compared to the BJP's 180 — have to split to be recognised as a legal entity.

Friday's public appeal by

Mr. Advani came after the BJP last month caused a split within the regional Congress Party in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh and formed an assembly with the backing of the splinter group.

The BJP, whose right wing policies and pro-Hindu agenda have traditionally been opposed by Congress, has hinted it will try the same tactics at the national level.

Meanwhile India's main Communist Party, which supports Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral's minority United Front coalition, accused the BJP of trying to wrest power and urged leftists to rally around the government.

Harkishan Singh Surjeet, general secretary of the Communist Party of India (Marxist), said Hindu nationalists "had their eye on the centre", and added workers, farmers and the poor would suffer if they came to power.

Mr. Surjeet said the BJP would undermine India's social fabric by causing religious divisions between Hindus and Muslims.

Mr. Advani, considered one of India's shrewdest politicians, argued many Congress members of parliament had overcome their traditional distaste of the right-wing BJP.

He said of Mr. Gujral's government: "Its days are already numbered. What next, is the question — elections or something else?"

Amnesty says 34 tortured since Zambia coup bid

LUSAKA (R) — The international human rights watchdog Amnesty International charged Friday that around 34 people detained after a bungled coup attempt in Zambia last week had been tortured by state interrogators.

The London-based organisation urged President Frederick Chiluba's government to stop the torture, which, it said, included the infliction of cigarette burns, beatings and electric shocks.

"Amnesty International today strongly condemns the torture and ill-treatment over the past week of a prominent opposition leader and up to 33 other detainees arrested in connection with last week's attempted coup d'état," it said in a statement.

"The attempted coup cannot be used as an excuse to inflict this cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment."

In the statement, faxed to Reuters in Lusaka from London, Amnesty said the detainees — many of them military officers — had also been denied food and water.

"I am not aware that anyone has been tortured," Mr. Chiluba's spokesman Richard Sakala told Reuters in response to the report.

The government said last week it had arrested 17 suspects in connection with an attempted coup on Oct. 28 led by Captain Steven Lungu who accused the government of corruption.

But Dean Mungomba, head of the opposition

Zambia Democratic Congress and the only civilian known to have been detained under emergency laws invoked a day after the coup attempt, said before a court hearing he shared his cell with 33 military officers.

Amnesty International said interrogators suspended Mr. Mungomba from a metal bar by his handcuffed hands and rope-tied legs, then beat him in a common torture method called "the swing."

He was also tortured by electric shocks applied to his metal handcuffs and was interrogated for up to 18 hours after each incident of torture.

"According to his lawyer, Robert Simenza, he was in such pain that he cried like a baby and when the pain left him, he didn't even know what was going on," Amnesty said.

The 33 other detainees were allegedly tortured in three torture rooms at the central police headquarters.

Wednesday, the Lusaka high court ordered the state to provide Mr. Mungomba with medical help, and to grant him access to food and water after his lawyers told the court of his torture.

It also ordered that he be given access to his lawyers and family, who had been barred from seeing him.

Mr. Mungomba, who is yet to be charged, has challenged the legality of his detention and is due to appear in court for a hearing on Nov. 12.

The detained military officers do not have legal representation and have not challenged their detention.

Gorbachev expected to reenter Swiss hospital

ZURICH (R) — Former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's health problems forced him to cancel another public appearance in Switzerland and will probably land him back in the hospital, his environmentalist Green Cross group said Friday.

Mr. Gorbachev, 66, was unable to attend a benefit dinner for the group, of which he is president, Thursday night in Basle. He had earlier checked out of a Bern hospital after two days of tests for what aides described as allergy problems.

"He will probably go back into the hospital," Swiss member of parliament Roland Wiederkehr, who heads the National Green Cross Chapter, told Reuters.

"At the moment he is in his hotel. His condition is unchanged, the same as yesterday evening."

Mr. Wiederkehr said it was not the extensive series of allergy tests that triggered Mr. Gorbachev's latest illness, but rather an intense allergic reaction.

"It was not the tests. (The problem) is that for which he underwent the tests in the first place, a terribly strong allergy which made his whole face swell up," he said.

"It is understandable that he does not wish to be photographed in this condition or he would appear on every front page around the world."

Mr. Wiederkehr held out hope that Mr. Gorbachev would be able to attend a benefit dinner in Zurich Friday evening.

"Every now and then even you and I have a face first thing in the morning that we hope will calm down in the course of the day. We hope he can be in Zurich this evening," he said.

It appeared he would not attend the group's board meeting and subsequent news conference scheduled for Friday.

Marion Starck at the Green Cross press office in Zurich said the former Soviet leader took part in a public presentation of an energy project in Basle Thursday evening.

"He attended that and held a small talk, then he found that his voice could not cope with the strain. Apparently he had some tests to do with his throat, which made it difficult for his voice to carry," she said.

IRA, Sinn Fein resignations show divisions over peace talks

BELFAST (AFP) — A slew of resignations from the IRA and its political wing Sinn Fein has highlighted serious divisions within the Republican camp over the Northern Ireland peace process.

Security sources in Belfast and Dublin acknowledge the resignations are "a significant development but not a crisis," and say the province's Republicans remain largely united.

The resignations and reshuffles over the past month are worrying but do not pose a threat to the ceasefire, which the IRA has scrupulously respected since July 20, Mitchell McLaughlin, one of Sinn Fein's leaders, told BBC radio.

"The resignations do not mean a return to conflict," he said.

A meeting last month in Northern Ireland of the IRA's executive led to the resignation of at least three top officials who disapproved of the principles of non-violence and disarmament Sinn Fein signed up for in order to take part in multi-party peace talks in Belfast on the future of Northern Ireland.

The officials have been "retired" from the leadership but have no intention of joining dissident republican groups such as the Continuity Army Council (CAC), which refuses to respect the ceasefire.

The Irish Independent newspaper Thursday reported that up to 20 Irish Republican Army members had resigned, but security sources in Belfast believe this to be an over-estimation.

Late Thursday, a dozen Sinn Fein militants reportedly resigned from the party during a meeting in the Irish town of Dundalk close to the border.

Mr. McLaughlin did not dispute the figure but said "the vast majority of our membership are committed

to bringing about this opportunity for peace" which Gerry Adams, Martin McGuinness and the rest of the Sinn Fein leadership is pursuing.

Sinn Fein was admitted to the talks only after the IRA declared a ceasefire and the party signed up to the principles on non-violence and disarmament.

Some political observers see the resignations as similar to an IRA split in 1986 which gave birth to the Republican Sinn Fein party and CAC, which refused to abandon the armed struggle to force the British out of Northern Ireland.

Security sources in Belfast said the reshuffles showed the IRA preferred to keep the hardliners within the movement rather than boot them out and risk them causing more trouble.

More encouragingly, they also said there were still no signs of any kind of IRA activity, unlike the last ceasefire in 1994-96 during which paramilitaries continued training.

The IRA leadership is exercising "total and absolute control" over these men, Republican sources said.

They said this was true even though a recent attack on a border town showed that the CAC possessed Semtex, an explosive only the IRA possesses in Northern Ireland.

It was also true even though the latest resignations were unexpected evidence of dissonance within a movement that has always been careful to show a united front, they added.

The multi-party peace negotiations are scheduled to resume next week to set an agenda for talks on two fronts — the devolution of legislative powers to Northern Ireland, and setting up cross-border bodies between Ireland and the province, a subject of deep concern to Protestant unionists.

Lightning strikes dead six elephants in Kruger Park

SKUKUZA, South Africa (AFP) — A bolt of lightning killed six elephants in Kruger Park, South Africa's largest game reserve, as they tried to shelter from a storm, the SAPA news agency reported Friday.

A ranger discovered the bodies of three female elephants and three young, aged between two and three years, after he saw vultures circling overhead.

Traces of burns showed that lightning had shot through the elephants who were huddled together in an attempt to protect themselves, said Chris van der Linde, spokesman in Skukuza, one of the park's main camps.

"This type of occurrence is very rare and has seldom happened in the park," he added.

BBC-TV to launch 24-hour news network in Britain

LONDON (AFP) — BBC television is to launch a 24-hour news network in Britain Sunday which will compete directly with Rupert Murdoch's Sky News channel on cable TV.

Executives of the new channel said that several cable operators had already indicated they would drop Sky News, a pay channel which carries commercials, in favour of BBC News 24, which will be free and without ads.

Murdoch's BSkyB tried unsuccessfully to block the BBC project, but British Broadcasting Corporation management insisted it was part of the network's public service mission.

"BBC News 24 will give licence fee payers a public service choice for a multi-channel age," said BBC News Director Tony Hall.

The BBC already has an all-news international channel, BBC World, which has a large following outside Britain but cannot be broadcast domestically because it is financed by advertisements.

BBC News 24 promises broad coverage but will stress regional news, executives said. The BBC has 13 regional bureaux and 42 foreign bureaux.

"No one has got a system of regional centres in Britain like ours, plus we've got the biggest network of international bureaux of any broadcaster," presenter Gavin Esler said.

The BBC stressed meanwhile that the 30 million pound (\$51 million) budget would not be at the expense of other radio or TV channels but would come from monies trimmed from the group's operating budget.

Much of the money went to computerised editing and broadcasting equipment intended to help keep personnel costs down.

Belgium pastor to seek release on bail

BRUSSELS (AFP) — A Hungarian-born preacher suspected of murdering at least six relatives is to appeal his continued detention pending trial, court officials said Friday.

Andras Pandi, 71, has been charged with murdering two ex-wives and four of his eight children between 1986 and 1990. He has denied the charges.

The bones of at least three bodies were found under a concrete slab in the basement of one of his homes in Brussels in late October.

A search of his properties also turned up traces of blood in a stairway and human tissue of undetermined origin in two refrigerators as well as an urn which Pandi said contained the ashes of a sister who died in Hungary in 1994.

DNA analyses were under way, Hilde Vandevoorde of the Brussels prosecutor's office, said Friday.

Authorities were expected to conclude searches at one house Friday but other properties would also be checked as police tried to locate previous occupants of the houses.

Ms. Vandevoorde said they were also trying to determine whether Mr. Pandi had lived elsewhere in Belgium before acquiring the properties in question.

Asked about reports that the detained might in fact be Mr. Pandi's younger brother and that Mr. Pandi had died in 1956, Ms. Vandevoorde said there was no indication of mistaken identity.

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Meanwhile, BSB and BSkyB had announced they would launch a 24-hour news channel, but BBC management insisted it was part of the network's public service mission.

BBC News 24 will go live on November 8 at 7pm, replacing the current 24-hour news channel, BBC News 24.

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The village of Valverde de Leanes, near Merida, after strong rains and winds swept through it (AFP photo)

Spanish leaders visit flood region as search goes on

BADAJOS, Spain (AFP) — Spanish Crown Prince Felipe and Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar were expected in the stricken Badajoz region of southwest Spain Friday in the wake of flooding which killed 21 people.

Meanwhile, rescue workers resumed the search for a six-year-old girl and a 39-year-old man still missing following torrential rains Wednesday night.

A further 11 people were killed just over the border in Portugal by the storms which left thousands of people without telephone and electricity and made roads and rail lines impassable.

Although the rain had stopped Friday, several roads were still flooded and the villages of Balboa and Alcazaba were cut off.

Some 700 officers from Spain's Civil Guard, as well as firemen and military, were Friday involved in the salvage operation.

The flooding which ranks among the most deadly in Spain in the past 20 years, has reopened the debate on prevention of natural disasters in a country where the memory is still fresh of a mudslide which swept through the Pyrenees killing 86 people in August last year.

Regions hardest hit by the haze.

"Visibility is now down to around 75 metres compared to yesterday's 300 metres," said Sumpeno of Jambi's meteorology office.

He said the thickening smoke was due to the absence of strong winds there since early in the morning.

Winds were pushing smoke inland in Kalimantan, the Indonesian part of Borneo, and towards the west of the island, Mr. Yunus said.

In Palangkaraya, the capital of Central Kalimantan, visibility Friday afternoon was limited to 200 metres, said John Pieter from the meteorology office there.

"We are sort of resigned to the fact that the smoke will only dissipate with the coming of the rainy season," he said.

Officials have warned that due to the El Niño weather phenomenon, the rainy season might not begin until the end of the year.

The smoke has blanketed much of Indonesia and Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and the Philippines since August, causing serious health concerns and massive disruption to daily life.

Indonesian officials say at least 17 people have died from illnesses aggravated by the smoke haze and over 100,000 people have suffered health problems.

"Though the development of the country's radio paging systems is sound on the whole, some paging companies violated state radio management regulations by establishing high-power transmitters on high hill tops, especially near those for air communications," said Li Deji of the State Radio Regulatory Commission.

More than 2,800 paging companies have come into being since the devices were introduced in China in 1985, the China Daily said.

In Guangdong province alone, more than 6,500 transmitters stronger than 100 watts have been installed, it said.

Authorities began a national inspection in May, leading to the closure of the transmitters which disturbed Beijing airport communications, the daily said.

Shenzhen-based companies will be inspected at the end of the month, it said.

Authorities were also encouraging the small paging companies to merge their services to free radio frequencies, it said.

Chinese beepingers wreaking havoc with air traffic control

BEIJING (AFP) — Personal pagers are wreaking havoc with China's air traffic control and officials were inspecting transmitters and dismantling those that cause problems, the official China Daily said Friday.

More than 40 million "beepers" are in use in China, where there is a shortage of fixed telephone lines, and the transmitters used by the paging companies can interfere with air traffic control.

On June 3, more than 20 planes were kept in a holding pattern over Beijing's airport because of interference caused by 14 pager transmitters installed on the hills to the west of the capital, the China Daily said.

A similar incident occurred on Aug. 13 in Shenzhen, which borders Hong Kong in southern China, when the Shenzhen airport was forced to close for two hours, sending flights to other airports, the newspaper said.

Hong Kong officials have also expressed concern that personal message transmitters in neighbouring Guangdong province had been causing problems for its air traffic controllers.

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"People are more vigilant against this and the families are small," an international aid worker said.

An official at the All-China Women's Federation said her organisation had not confronted the problem. "If we hear more about it we will work on it," she said.

Terence Hull, a fellow at the research school of social sciences at the Australian National University, noted Chinese orphanages were a source of mainly girls for adoption overseas.

"There has been a lot of talk about these girls being sold to foreigners for adoption."

"Whether that could mean trade, I don't know. But I would certainly be suspicious of it," Mr. Hull said.

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MOHAMMAD AMADEditor-in-Chief:
GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

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Hopes for new House

THE NEWLY-ELECTED Parliament is expected to be an inward looking legislature due to its composition. Pro-government independents have won a strong grip on the 13th Parliament and are projected to channel their energies into raising strictly domestic issues. Moderates are normally committed to an internally-oriented agenda. This does not mean that the faltering peace process will not figure high at one stage or another in the deliberations of the Lower House, however. Jordanian-Israeli relations are at their lowest point since the signing of the peace treaty in 1994 and as such they are bound to give a cause for deep concern to most of the deputies notwithstanding the fact that there is not really much that Parliament per se can do about the deteriorating political situation in the region.

Still, the local agenda facing the new Parliament will be replete with priority items. Socio-economic issues such as creeping poverty, the increasing gap between rich and poor and unemployment are likely to be accorded focused attention even though few initiatives for tackling them can be expected to come from the deputies themselves. It is the Executive Branch which must assume a leadership role in addressing these pressing national issues. Parliament is projected to play only a supportive or critical role of the government's economic policies.

On other fronts, the revamping of the Elections Law awaits a thorough reconsideration. So is the Press and Publications Law. The government has hinted on more than one occasion that existing loopholes and shortcomings in the electoral law will be debated by the people's representatives soon.

While we expect the centrists in Parliament not to categorically oppose the government's line on most national issues, we hope that their support be conditioned on real solutions envisaged and provided by the Executive Branch. There is always room for honest differences of opinions on what is best for the country. This is where we hope that the majority of the newly-elected parliamentarians will perform their duties in the most dynamic and able manner.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Ra'i's Tareq Masarweh commented on the results of the general elections by expressing hope that the newly elected deputies will focus on meaningful efforts and work to serve the nation and avoid the tedious and futile speeches that dominated the previous parliaments. We hope that the government will work closely with the new Parliament towards addressing the numerous domestic issues plaguing the country and turn its attention towards securing sufficient water and promoting agriculture which is the backbone of the economy, said the writer. He said the Jordanian people wish that the government and Parliament will stop talking a great deal about privatisation and globalisation and get down to working in fields of real interest to the public. We want a parliament that will stop any government plans to sell out the potash, the phosphate, the cement, the Aqaba port, and the refinery under the excuse of privatisation and turn its attention towards the real issues, said the writer. He said the coming Parliament should open the way for a free press which can help the executive and legislative authorities with their efforts to serve the nation and which can reflect the good image of the country.

Al Aswaq's Munir Hamarneh addressed the issue of the Doha economic summit scheduled for later this month, saying the recent announcements by businessmen in the Arab World about their intention to boycott the coming meeting is a manifestation of the Arab masses' rejection of the meeting and its objectives. It is in a way a show of resistance to the U.S. pressure on the Arab governments to attend the meeting alongside Israel because such a meeting is only serving the interests of the U.S.-Israeli alliance and is against the will of the Arab masses. The writer said the U.S. has exerted tremendous pressure on the Arab governments to attend the Doha meeting in order to show that its so-called peace process is still alive and to prove that Washington's sponsorship of that process is successful. The business communities' rejection of the coming meeting is a clear rejection of American policies in the Middle East and displays the Arab masses' awareness of the dangerous situation created by Israel and the U.S. in their region through the continued Israeli aggression on the Arab World.

Jordanian Perspective

What to expect from the new Parliament

By Dr. Musa Keilani

JORDAN HAS turned a landmark in its democratic life with the election of a new Parliament.

This is the first election held since the signing of the peace treaty with Israel three years ago, which sheds a special light on future indications of Jordan's political stands. If we are to compare former parliaments, we see that the Parliament of 1984 was tailor-made to serve one specific objective, i.e., to strengthen Jordan's role in the West Bank and to cement the cohesive nature of Jordanian-Palestinian unity. As for the 1989 Parliament, it was supposed to contain the popular anger which manifested itself in the Ma'an riots of that summer, notwithstanding outside forces having played their role in the Ma'an troubles following the Saddam-Assad secret summit in the Jafra desert.

It has to be admitted that however liberal Jordan hopes to become there will always be certain constraints which will make a Sweden-like democracy nearly impossible. Jordan has a strong tribal background not only in the Armed Forces, but it is permeated into all strata of our society; it has its economic arm, social arm, as well as a political party arm nowadays. So we cannot delude ourselves that the elite intelligentsia of Ph.D. holders should exclusively be elected to staff our 13th Parliament.

It is also true that the Parliament has been instrumental in serving certain goals and other hidden agendas like the peace treaty, the International Monetary Fund restructuring programme, the high taxes and the non-palatable economic laws. But it has continuously been genuinely representative of the demographic contours of Jordan's Palestinians, farmers, bedouins, city dwellers and the ordinary man in the street.

Since politics in Jordan is actually more of a "service industry" than a utopian dream that dismisses the facts on the ground, we should not be totally surprised by having such a high percentage of pro-establishment deputies who won the confidence and support of their cities and constituencies. Nevertheless we do have strong voices of opposition.

Jordan still lacks a strong centrist party to encompass all the ranks of independent, centrist Jordanians. The National Constitutional Party is relatively new to the political arena which explains its failure to win more than five seats this time.

The popular feeling that Jordanians are not benefiting economically from the peace process, coupled with soaring prices, and the high rate of unemployment contributed to the success of some radical leftists and fundamental rightists.

One of the sociological facts of life among Jordanians is that their support goes first to the next of kin and tribe, then it goes to religion, then to city and lastly to general

ideology. The one-person, one-vote election law capitalised on this fact which led to many traditionalist leaders.

Despite all contentions and allegations, all colours of our political spectrum are represented although it cannot be said that there will be an organised opposition group in the legislature. There could have been some shortcomings in the election process stemming from our relative inexperience in conducting polls, but they should not be and could not be described as irregularities or fraud as some disappointed candidates tend to do.

What is indeed ironic is that such charges are based on a yearning for a fully "Westernised" style of elections on the part of the same people who assail "Western cultural invasion of the Arab World." Well, those should realise that they cannot have it both ways: They simply cannot reject the one-person, one-vote formula in the universally accepted principle for elections and at the same time demand other "Western" trappings for the process. We have to come to accept the reality that given the peculiarities of our society and way of life, there have to be some ground rules which suit the conditions in the country and bode well for the future as we get further along the process.

One of our regrets, however, is the failure of our women candidates to secure a seat in the legislature. With the victory of Toujan Feisal in the 1993 elections, Jordan was proud to boast of another landmark in its political life — the presence of an elected woman candidate in Parliament for the first time in the Arab World. That was further augmented by the presence of two other women in the appointed Upper House of Parliament.

But the outcome of last week's elections set us back on the count of women's presence in the Lower House. One of the arguments for the failure of all the 17 women candidates to make it to the legislature is that despite all contentions and claims to the contrary most of the candidates were betting on their being women and a sense of women's rights and causes to see them through to Parliament. But that was a non-starter from the very beginning simply because the nature of our society is such that the concept of "women for the sake of women's rights" simply does not work.

Now that the elections are behind us and the legislature is about to begin its work, it has also become clear that pressing domestic issues would dominate the new Parliament's work and not much time would be wasted on rhetoric against the treaty of peace. Jordan's decision to sign a peace treaty with its next door neighbour was a strategic option based on the realisation that we have had enough of wars and conflicts that have been preoccupying us throughout and depriving us not only of valuable

resources but also potential for development that could address our problems such as poverty and unemployment. The low number of "opposition deputies in the new Parliament does not and should not mean that the executive authority, regardless of the person who heads it, can afford to render a lukewarm performance and get away with it.

The track record of some of the new/old parliamentarians is clear and gives us hope that issues that should be openly debated in a healthy way would indeed be brought out with the importance and focus they deserve. And we also know that our leadership has always welcomed constructive criticism and moved swiftly to resolve problems and bottlenecks wherever possible, despite the political risks involved. The slow but steady campaign against corruption in official circles is one of those areas which were highlighted by the opposition in outgoing parliaments and picked up and acted upon by the government based on the realisation that it is a festering sore in our life. That makes us optimistic that prompt and dedicated action will be taken by the executive authority as and when substantiated arguments are presented on the Parliament floor based on constructive criticism rather than for the sake of raising issues for the sake of raising issues to discredit the government.

The presence of deputies like Abdullah Alkaleh, Bassam Haddadin, Mohammad Oran, Ahmad Oweidi Abbadi, and Mansour Murad tells us that there will be opposition in Parliament but disorganised because of the differing political ideologies they adhere to. But we have to remember that their real strength lies outside Parliament, and we can expect to see more demonstrations and rallies organised by the mainstream Islamist movement and other groups, which despite disagreements with the "independent" deputies, would not only bring up burning issues but also rally behind the "opposition" whenever the ideas of the various parties involved converge.

As to the Islamist voice itself in Parliament, let us not forget that the new legislature has indeed someone like Sheikh Mohammad Raafat from Baqaa — whose stands would make some of our former Islamist deputies look like moderates.

There is little ground to argue that the new legislature is "domesticated" as some have tried to portray it based on external issues and policies. Jordan's 13th Parliament is going to focus on internal issues and problems that face Jordanians with a view to resolving them.

That is the way the people spoke, and they are also hopeful that the way it is going to be for the next four years.

Commentators shift talk to post-election stage

REVIEWED BY
ELIA NASRALLAH

THE LOCAL dailies gave prominence to the parliamentary elections and their results, the crisis between the U.N. and Iraq, the peace process and domestic affairs.

Now that the parliamentary elections are over the present government which has accomplished its work is expected to resign and open the way for a new government to deal with the legislative authority in accordance with norms prevailing in various democracies, said Taher Adwan of Al Arab Al Yawm. The change in the executive authority is necessary following the series of developments on the internal and external fronts and in light of the domestic situation, particularly the government's relations with the opposition groups, mainly the Muslim Brotherhood, said the writer. The government has to give way to another government, more open to and able to deal with the professional unions which have been staging strikes to demand their rights and the opposition groups which have openly expressed their frustration with the government over numerous issues, according to the writer, who said a new Parliament should bring with it a new phase, requiring a new government and a new agenda.

Mahmoud Rimawi of Al Ra'i analysed the results of the general elections saying that the new set-up in Parliament includes a wide range of political shades and deputies affiliated to leftist and Islamist ideologies alike. The results showed that people in the major cities including Amman are concerned less with politics than with economic issues, that the one-person, one-vote system has deprived women of the right to reach Parliament, something which calls for a quick change and the introduction of a modern Election Law that can cater to the aspirations of all people, Rimawi said. On the whole, he said, there is no doubt the coming few months will see the deputies trying their best to prove their stand and put into practice the ideas which they had aired in their election campaigns and show the electorate that they were trustworthy.

Khawla Abdul Hadi of Al Dstour bemoaned the results of the elections saying that they frustrated Jordanian women who had worked hard to reach Parliament. It is premature to guess what went wrong and what prevented women from clinching a single seat in the new Parliament, but it should be emphasised that many of the women candidates deserve to sit in the Lower

House in view of high level of education and vast experience in domestic affairs, and are in fact considered by a major sector of the public to be more capable to handle public issues than many of those elected, stressed the writer. She said in the coming general elections women should be given a quota in Parliament as the work of those highly qualified for the job is definitely needed by the public.

Al Arab Al Yawm's Saleh Qallab claimed that many irregularities occurred in the general elections which render the results incorrect. The fact that there was a very poor turnout of voters in Amman and other cities reflects a disgruntled and dissatisfied public with the obsolete elections law, he said. The writer said the Elections Law has many loopholes and opens the way for rigging the results and tampering with the distribution of voter cards as happened in many districts. Claiming that he has solid proof of manipulation and the confusion surrounding the voter cards distribution, the Qallab said this situation enabled the representatives of the tribes rather than the political groups to emerge as winners, something, he contended, which dealt a blow to Jordan's democratic experiment.

THE MEDIA IN PRINT

Oreih Rintawi of Al Dstour said Iraq should find a way to avoid military confrontation with the U.S. which seems determined to launch yet another aggression on Iraqi territory. It is true that Iraq is fed up with the endless work of the international weapons inspection teams and the sanctions which have been in place for the past seven years, but any move to provoke the U.N. and the U.S. will not bring an end to the present situation, according to the writer. Iraq had counted on France, Russia and China to back it at the Security Council and to approve of Baghdad's dismissal of the American members of the inspection teams, but its hopes were frustrated when all the council members were aligned behind Washington, Rintawi said. If the Iraqis remain adamant, they will face further sanctions and more sufferings for their people, he said.

Daoud Qarneh, a writer at Al Arab Al Yawm, said the present crisis is one that concerns Iraq and the U.N., but not the U.S. which is threatening to launch aggression on Baghdad. Yet it seems that Baghdad has provoked the U.S. by backing its representatives in the weapons inspection teams and thus prompting Washington to threaten strikes against Baghdad, he said. According to Qarneh, the U.S. wants

to impose its will on Iraq and keep the door open for its spies and its military experts to move about freely anywhere in Iraq in defiance of the Iraqi nation and Iraq's sovereignty. He said the U.S. moves are clearly influenced by the Zionist lobby in the U.S. which wants Washington to subdue the Arabs and deprive them of any chance to threaten Israel's domination of the Arab region. The writer said that even if the Americans toppled President Saddam Hussein, they can by no means subdue the will of the Iraqi nation.

Fahed Fanek of Al Ra'i expressed the view that Jordan took an uncalculated and rash decision with Israel in connection with the Mishal affair. Jordan could have bargained a better deal than that which secured the release of a paralysed man and a few Jordanians who had committed common crimes, he said. Jordan should have demanded that the top leaders of the Mossad be sacked and the release of all Jordanian detainees from Israeli jails in exchange for the release of the Mossad agents who were caught trying to assassinate a Jordanian citizen on Jordanian territory. Noting that the Palestinians succeeded in securing the release of 1,100 detainees from Israeli jails in 1985 in exchange for the release of three Israeli soldiers captured in action, the writer said the fact that the Mossad echelon remained in office after the scandal reflected Netanyahu's total disregard of Israel's relations with Jordan.

Fakhri Kavar, a writer for Al Ra'i criticised the convening of the IATA conference in Amman as an event that further drained the finances of Royal Jordanian which hosted the meeting. Upon organising the meeting, the government said that IATA's decision to hold the meeting in Amman was in recognition of the country's national airline's prominent role in air transport services at the regional and international levels, but in fact there is nothing in the performance of Royal Jordanian, which is indebted by JD700 million, that entitles it to host the meeting, spending JDI million on the event further draining the country's financial resources, Kavar said. The writer said IATA's conference is not expected to help boost the Kingdom's tourism industry through such meeting and the government should have spent the money on much more important matters like giving the striking doctors allowances to attain a higher standard of living.

LETTERS

Where to point the finger.

To the Editor:

I STILL can't get over the high dose of shock I received after hearing that not a single woman of 17 candidates was elected to parliament. I tried to find a logical explanation for what happened.

Whom are we to blame, I asked myself. The youngsters who didn't bother to even think of voting, and instead enjoyed a vacation day by travelling to neighbouring countries?

The women who went along with their husbands' decision and voted for whomever they were told to vote for?

The overprotective families who forbade their daughters from going out to vote on a rainy day on the pretext of protecting them from any possible danger?

The careless, hopeless attitude that has been penetrating our society lately?

Or are we to blame the lack of public awareness on the importance of a gender-balanced parliament.

I kept asking myself these questions over and over again till I finally reached the decision that is we, the youngsters, who are the ones to be blamed most for our complete indifference concerning political issues. We are the new generation with the utmost education, and as such we should try to make a difference. We are the ones who should encourage this society towards the promotion and enforcement of equal rights and equal opportunities.

A quota for women might have been the best solution in confronting narrow-minded attitudes. It might have been the only solution to stop this machismo movement from spreading. Or maybe I'm just day-dreaming after all.

Natasha Twa
Twa1@index.com.jo

Publicise SPANA

To the Editor:

I WOULD like to refer to the letter to the editor "SPANAs Deserves Praise," Jordan Times, Oct. 8, 1997, by Ms. Pia Kanaan.

Before reading this letter, I had no idea that the Jordanian Society for the Protection of Animals existed in Jordan, and to be frank, I was surprised. Surprised, again I want to be open and direct, because few people do care about animals, and when they express it, they are often laughed at. I am talking from experience. What I frequently hear is, people, children and adults, proudly boasting about hanging cats or setting fire to their tails, or squeezing the neck of the bird out of its body when it is still alive.

SPANAs saves and protects wretched animals from violence and cruelty. I wonder why we don't read or hear much about this association. It should have more publicity on television and daily newspapers. We constantly read and hear about associations that call for the protection and care of the environment, but never or rarely hear about one that calls for the protection of animals.

We, as a country, have gone so far in so many aspects and ways, that the establishment of such an institute fits in a way that completes the circle.

Rula S. Natta
Amman

Government seeks highly qualified strategic partner to buy 40% of JTC

By Issam Qadamani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Jordanian government is seeking an international strategic partner with experience in the area of telecommunication technology to buy 40 per cent of the state equity in the Jordan Telecommunications Corporation (JTC).

According to Transport and Telecommunications Minister Bassam Al Saket, the government has decided to increase the strategic partner's investment share from 26 per cent to 40 per

cent and is willing to sell this portion of its equity to any international strategic partner having had revenues equivalent to \$3.5 billion in 1996 and a minimum of 3.5 million access lines in service at December 1996.

Dr. Saket expected American, European and Japanese investors to send offers for investment in JTC, noting that the government-appointed financial advisor has officially put up the government's shares for sale.

Dr. Saket said the gov-

ernment reserves the right to retain a special evaluation of the JTC assets in accordance with the latest reevaluation made by the financial advisor.

JTC is the operator of Jordan's public telecommunications network and will have exclusive authorization until Dec. 31, 2002 to operate international, domestic, long distance and local basic telephone services in Jordan.

The government has authorized the JTC to operate the mobile telephone network in Jordan from

November 1998 following the expiry of the contract with Fast Link, the present operator of the cellular network.

Dr. Saket said the JTC's revenues in 1996 totalled JD160 million amidst expectations that such revenues will increase to approximately JD200 million in 1997.

Dr. Saket said the strategic partner buying the government shares shall be represented on the company's management and its board of directors.



Ambassador Egan shakes hands with Minister Haddadin Thursday after delivering the laboratory (Petra photo)

U.S. presents a mobile water quality laboratory to Ministry of Water and Irrigation

AMMAN (J.T.) — Water and Irrigation Minister Munther Haddadin represented Jordan at a ceremony held Thursday at the ministry premises where U.S. ambassador to Jordan, Wesley Egan, presented a mobile water quality laboratory to the Ministry of Water and Irrigation.

The laboratory, which was provided by the United States Department of State within the framework of the regional water data banks project, will facilitate the collection and preservation of water samples from throughout the Kingdom, providing data necessary for Jordan's water managers to make informed decisions about the use, distribution, con-

servation and protection of Jordan's vital water resources.

Because water quality analyses must meet stringent requirements that are difficult to attain on-site, the mobile laboratory meets the critical necessity of having a controlled environment in which to conduct water analysis at field locations.

The laboratory consists of an air conditioned workspace mounted on a four-wheel drive diesel truck. The laboratory's clean water system, independent electrical supply and sophisticated instrumentation will support the ministry's need to carry out water quality sampling and analysis at field locations.

It will complement the capabilities of the ministry's central water quality laboratories.

United States experts will train Jordanian staff in the operation of the laboratory.

The regional water data banks project is supported by the United States, the European Union, France, Canada, Norway and Australia. It has contributed a broad spectrum of resources to water agencies in Jordan, Israel, the West Bank and Gaza, including training, equipment, and technical expertise in water data collection and analysis methods.

Jobless rate plunges to 24-year low in U.S.

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The U.S. jobless rate plunged to its lowest level since 1973 last month but analysts say Asia's wobbly financial markets should induce the Federal Reserve to leave monetary policy alone.

The Labour Department reported Friday that a surging U.S. economy pushed the jobless rate down to 4.7 per cent, from 4.9 per cent in September, by creating 284,000 jobs.

The October figure was far stronger than had been expected on Wall Street, where analysts were predicting job growth of 215,000 and an unemployment rate of 4.8 per cent.

President Bill Clinton called a press conference to celebrate the October job growth and to issue one last appeal to Congress to back legislation giving him "fast-track" authority to negotiate new trade deals.

The administration is fighting an uphill battle for fast-track in the House of Representatives, where a vote planned for Friday was put off until the weekend.

"I think it's important that we understand that a key reason that more people are working and that wages are rising and that unemployment is down to its lowest level in more than two decades is that we have opened new markets and won new customers for American goods and services," the president argued.

Growing gloom seen in Japanese economy

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan's trade minister said Friday the world's second-biggest economy was becoming "extremely unstable" as analysts warned uncertainty over its future was growing.

"The situation is becoming extremely unstable," International Trade and Industry Minister Mitsuo Horiuchi said, pointing to volatile Japanese stock prices which had been "engulfed by overseas markets."

"The government needs to draw up deregulation measures that surpass market expectations in order to erase uncertainty over the economy," a trade ministry spokesman quoted Mr. Horiuchi as telling cabinet ministers.

The government is to unveil a package of deregulation proposals and measures to boost liquidity of the property market this month to stimulate the economy.

Analysts warned that the government-termed "economic recovery" was slowing.

"A risk of recession is growing," said Yasutoshi Nagai, economist at Yamaichi Research Institute, adding that such a scenario was not yet certain since some recovery was expected in personal consumption early next year.

He supported the government's plan not to use public money in an economic stimulus package.

"Economic rescue packages with huge public works spending has not worked well in the past," he said.

"They can even cause negative side effects — the use of public money would further strain government finances, making people worry about pension and other public welfare schemes and increase savings at the expense of spending," he said.

The analyst said government deregulation plans to restructure the economy would help in the future.

Toshio Sumitani, economist at Tokyo Research Institute, said uncertainty had been increasing, noting weakness in personal consumption, which accounts for 60 per cent of gross domestic product.

"I would say the economy is in a 'sentimental depression,'" he said.

"Both consumers and companies are feeling insecure ahead of the Tokyo Big Bang (deregulation measures to be completed

by 2001) and cuts in public works spending under an austere budget.

"They cannot plan for the future," he said.

Economic Planning Agency director-general Koji Omi said Friday he planned to finalise the government's economic stimulus package before Nov. 20.

"I asked ministers after this morning's cabinet meeting to cooperate in compilation of the package on the premise that the government would not offer extra spending," Mr. Omi told a news conference.

Finance Minister Hiroshi Mitsuoka also reiterated the government would not resort to fiscal measures.

The government's management and coordination agency said Japan's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in September stood at 3.4 per cent, unchanged for the third consecutive month, with the recovery tempo slowing.

The labour ministry said that the ratio of job openings to job seekers stood at 0.71 in September, down 0.01 points from August, meaning there were 71 job offers for every 100 job seekers.

Schroders Japan Ltd. said in a report that the number of manufacturing jobs had dropped 2.5 per cent year-on-year. "The fourth consecutive monthly drop in manufacturing jobs is disturbing," it said.

"The worsening effective job offer-to-applicant ratio suggests consumer sentiment will worsen and propensity to spend will fall," the Schroders report added.

The management and coordination agency said in a separate report that consumer prices in September rose 0.7 per cent from the previous month after rising 0.1 per cent in August.

The nation's consumer prices in the month were up 2.4 per cent from a year earlier, the largest gain since April 1992, when consumer prices rose by the same margin.

Agency officials said the largest increase was in medical service costs, which rose 11.4 per cent following a change in the nation's health insurance scheme.

Bank of Japan Governor Yasuo Matsuhashita said the Japanese economy was in a "phase of slowdown" due to the prolonged impact of the consumption tax increase in April.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 1997

By Linda C. Black, Tribune Media Services, Inc.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) People who can figure out what's going on without asking have the advantage today. That's usually not your strong point. You can develop those talents, however. It just takes practice. You're eager to move ahead in your career. This is a way to do that.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You're usually most comfortable at home. This weekend, however, is perfect for travel. Make arrangements first thing this morning. Tomorrow should be marvellous for parties, visiting friends and maybe even a family reunion. Better get on the phone right now.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You like people to come right out and say what they want. But that won't be the case today, so you might as well relax and enjoy it. Think about other people's feelings. Watch how they act instead of what they say and you'll do fine.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You'll be feeling impetuous, outspoken and assertive. You might find yourself telling your partner exactly what's on your mind. Sometimes you think that's impolite. Today it could just come out. That's OK. Go ahead and let it happen. It'll be good for both of you.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) There's work to be done, and you're in the mood. Instead of just housework, take on a job that pays money. You're coming up with all kinds of things you'd like to buy. Why should you scrimp and save? Just increase your income and you can do whatever you want.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Be especially attentive to a quiet person's feelings. Don't be critical, even in jest. He or she will be more vulnerable than usual, so it'll be easier to cause hurt. Just be tuned in and you'll both have a positive experience.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You're very busy, and there's a lot to be done. Unfortunately, you might also be feeling scattered. First, get organised. Otherwise, you could waste this entire day and not accomplish a thing. Make setting priorities your first priority.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) This weekend should be lots of fun. You hereby have permission to act like a kid again. Gather up a batch of friends and loved ones, just for the fun of it. Have everybody bring their favourite games. There's no better way to learn than by playing together.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Remember those folks you promised to invite for dinner someday? Well, here's your chance. Take a guest to lunch. Have somebody else over for dinner. You might even go out for a late date after that, if you're up for it. Be careful about spending too much money, though.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You have more enthusiasm and energy than usual. You're interested in learning, and you have some good people around to teach you. Ask them to do that. You'll find them enthusiastic and flattered by the attention you're giving. This is definitely a win-win situation.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You find it difficult to deal with people who are not reasonable or rational. Today, you're going to be surrounded by them. No need to panic. Just keep your wits about you and pay attention to innuendoes. That's the way these people communicate.

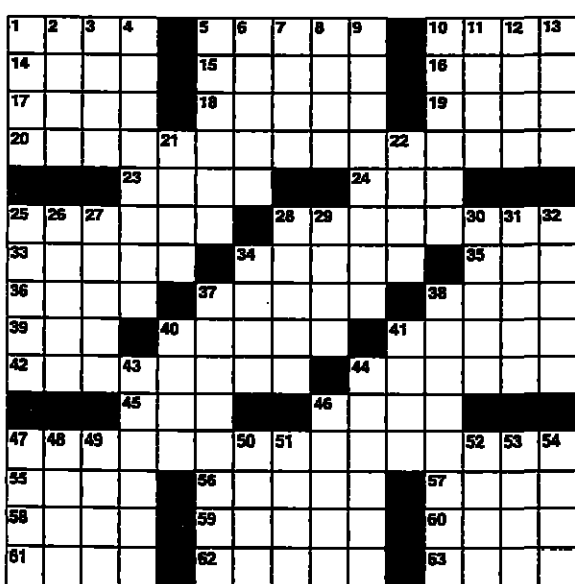
PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You and your friends finally have the energy and enthusiasm to do something you've been talking about. For example, instead of sitting around drinking beer, build a house with Habitat for Humanity. There are plenty of opportunities out there. Make a few calls this morning.

Birthstone of November: Topaz — Tiger's Eye

THE Daily Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Took advantage of
- 5 Take a breather
- 10 Meat cut
- 14 Offended
- 15 Steel or brass
- 16 Where the heart is?
- 17 Drinking cups
- 18 Old hat
- 19 Uncap
- 20 Kinds of containers
- 23 Vase-shaped jug
- 24 Stout
- 25 Certain hair
- 28 Scales
- 33 Noted violin maker
- 34 Soup holders
- 35 Court concern
- 36 Youngsters
- 37 Bitter drug
- 38 Current fashion
- 39 Greek vowel
- 40 African antelope
- 41 Took on
- 42 Convention participant
- 44 Harsh
- 45 — sister
- 46 Farmland piece
- 47 Kinds of containers
- 55 Con
- 56 Fable lesson
- 57 Soft cheese
- 58 List part
- 59 Stand
- 60 Emerald Isle
- 61 Verne captain
- 62 Neck features
- 63 Sweetie



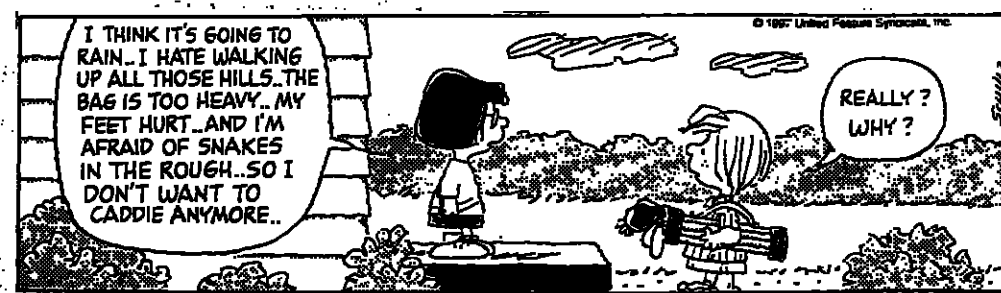
by Diane C. Baldwin

Puzzle solved:

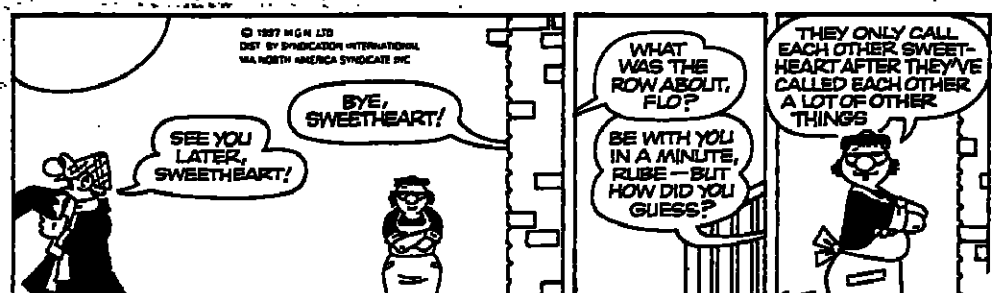
DOWN

- 1 Corner Pyle's
- 2 Crabby
- 3 Hence
- 4 Mountaineering
- 5 Football plays
- 6 Vow-taking site
- 7 — Bator
- 8 Auctioneer's cry
- 9 Scintillates
- 10 Selected
- 11 Navajo neighbor
- 12 Sign
- 13 Writes down
- 21 Movie bridge
- 22 Word of resignation
- 25 Loathed
- 26 Ham it up
- 27 Of birth
- 28 Famous frontiersman
- 29 Filled with wonder
- 30 — Boothe Luce
- 31 Enthusiastic
- 32 Nobel, for one
- 34 Utter without thinking
- 37 Man from Montgomery
- 38 Wadi
- 40 Selves
- 41 Munich mixer
- 43 Nome native
- 44 Piano exercise
- 46 Degrade
- 47 Adams' son
- 48 Feed the kitty
- 49 Rose support
- 50 Ms. Ephron
- 51 Sign of a leak
- 52 Buffalo's lake
- 53 Modena money
- 54 Vindicator

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n' Jeff



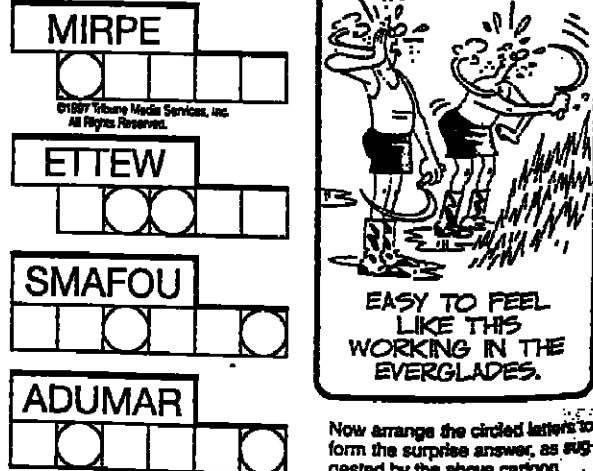
THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



"I ordered smaller checks so it seems like we're spending less."

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Print answer here: _____
(Answers tomorrow)
Saturday's Jumbles: FACET CASTE PREACH SOCIAL
Answer: This will make a lawyer successful — LOTS OF "PRACTICE"

ROSCOPE

ROSCOPE NOVEMBER 8, 1997
Tribune Media Services, Inc.

1 to April 19: People who can figure out what's going on in the world are the ones who are successful. You can develop this skill by practicing. You can develop this skill by practicing. You can develop this skill by practicing.

10 to May 20: You're usually more successful when you're more confident. You can develop this skill by practicing. You can develop this skill by practicing. You can develop this skill by practicing.

11 to June 21: You're usually more successful when you're more confident. You can develop this skill by practicing. You can develop this skill by practicing. You can develop this skill by practicing.

12 to June 22 to July 21: You're usually more successful when you're more confident. You can develop this skill by practicing. You can develop this skill by practicing. You can develop this skill by practicing.

13 to August 21: You're usually more successful when you're more confident. You can develop this skill by practicing. You can develop this skill by practicing. You can develop this skill by practicing.

14 to September 21: You're usually more successful when you're more confident. You can develop this skill by practicing. You can develop this skill by practicing. You can develop this skill by practicing.

15 to October 21: You're usually more successful when you're more confident. You can develop this skill by practicing. You can develop this skill by practicing. You can develop this skill by practicing.

16 to November 21: You're usually more successful when you're more confident. You can develop this skill by practicing. You can develop this skill by practicing. You can develop this skill by practicing.

17 to December 21: You're usually more successful when you're more confident. You can develop this skill by practicing. You can develop this skill by practicing. You can develop this skill by practicing.

18 to January 21: You're usually more successful when you're more confident. You can develop this skill by practicing. You can develop this skill by practicing. You can develop this skill by practicing.

19 to February 21: You're usually more successful when you're more confident. You can develop this skill by practicing. You can develop this skill by practicing. You can develop this skill by practicing.

20 to March 21: You're usually more successful when you're more confident. You can develop this skill by practicing. You can develop this skill by practicing. You can develop this skill by practicing.

21 to April 21: You're usually more successful when you're more confident. You can develop this skill by practicing. You can develop this skill by practicing. You can develop this skill by practicing.

22 to May 21: You're usually more successful when you're more confident. You can develop this skill by practicing. You can develop this skill by practicing. You can develop this skill by practicing.

23 to June 21: You're usually more successful when you're more confident. You can develop this skill by practicing. You can develop this skill by practicing. You can develop this skill by practicing.

24 to July 21: You're usually more successful when you're more confident. You can develop this skill by practicing. You can develop this skill by practicing. You can develop this skill by practicing.

25 to August 21: You're usually more successful when you're more confident. You can develop this skill by practicing. You can develop this skill by practicing. You can develop this skill by practicing.

26 to September 21: You're usually more successful when you're more confident. You can develop this skill by practicing. You can develop this skill by practicing. You can develop this skill by practicing.

27 to October 21: You're usually more successful when you're more confident. You can develop this skill by practicing. You can develop this skill by practicing. You can develop this skill by practicing.

28 to November 21: You're usually more successful when you're more confident. You can develop this skill by practicing. You can develop this skill by practicing. You can develop this skill by practicing.

29 to December 21: You're usually more successful when you're more confident. You can develop this skill by practicing. You can develop this skill by practicing. You can develop this skill by practicing.

30 to January 21: You're usually more successful when you're more confident. You can develop this skill by practicing. You can develop this skill by practicing. You can develop this skill by practicing.

31 to February 21: You're usually more successful when you're more confident. You can develop this skill by practicing. You can develop this skill by practicing. You can develop this skill by practicing.

Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic press

Government participation, investments seen strong incentive to private sector

**** THE REASON** that was behind the participation of the government in productive investment with the private sector during the 60s, 70s and 80s still exists, economic analyst and banker Wasef Azar said in a recent lecture. "If the private sector is in a much stronger position than during the 60s and the 70s, the productive investment is still low and continues to characterise our financial activity," Mr. Azar said. He added: "With the emergence of deep economic and social problems, such as unemployment and poverty, it is therefore necessary that the government participation be a strong incentive to the private sector and, consequently, be a serious factor in resolving many sensitive economic problems."

Noting that among the reasons that influenced the government to participate in investment alongside the private sector since the 50s were the lack of sufficient private savings and the low private sector awareness of large-scale industrial investment, Mr. Azar stressed that the private sector has never complained of mixed equity through the participation of the government. "They (the private sector) complained of the work of the government institutions in which they did not have any partnership with," he emphasised.

Mr. Azar, who is the general manager of the Jordan National Bank, described the three past decades as being unique for having created a mixed economy whereby the public sector joined with the private sector to carry out the development of the country, unlike other states which adopted socialism and all production elements became owned by the state. He said that the government participation did not cause any imbalance in investments because it directed and pushed the private sector towards higher investments.

The lecture pointed out that as Jordan opens up on the world through various international agreements being negotiated, it is highly desirable more than any time before that the government and the private sector cooperate to form developed and advanced economic units capable of protecting local production and ensure that it continues to be competitive. "All of this requires huge investments that the private sector could not or may not be able to carry and implement," he said stressing that "the government participation is needed to select the best trends without imposing any monopolies in this regard (Al Dustour).

Trading volume rises, prices drop as AFM comes under the influence of foreign investors

By Tareq Ayyoub
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Turnover at the Amman Financial Market (AFM) increased last week but share prices dropped as a result of foreign portfolios' influence, brokers said Friday.

The AFM's weekly bulletin indicated that the turnover volume increased to JD 5.3 million from JD 3.7 million a week before, or 43.2 per cent increase.

Naim Naqeb, a broker at the Jordan International Financial Centre, said several contracts concluded by foreign portfolios "to buy shares of the Housing Bank, phosphate and potash companies led to the increase in the general turnover."

Mr. Naqeb told the Jordan Times that the foreign portfolios decision to buy shares of Housing Bank was due to the remarkable profit it recorded by the bank in the first nine months.

He said that on Wednesday, "140,000 of the Housing Bank shares were purchased by these portfolios."

Last month, the Housing Bank announced that its registered JD25 million net profit in the first nine months of 1997.

Mr. Naqeb said the decline in the AFM general price index was due to the portfolios' decision to sell shares in the cement and pharmaceutical and other firms "which caused supply exceeding demand in the market."

Another broker, who asked not to be named, confirmed Mr. Naqeb's accounts and said that another reason that led to the increase was the sudden interest in the shares of the Industrial Development Bank (IDB).

He emphasised that the declaration of the IDB that it would distribute "a half share to its shareholders and its intention to increase the bank's capital have played another role to increase the purchase of its share."

He explained that "the portfolios decisions to sell shares of the cement company lead to the availability of shares in the market," which eventually led to a decrease in the share price of the cement firm.

"The supply has exceeded demand in the market and led to the price decrease of many shares," he said.

"The foreign investors usually create confusion in the market. When they buy shares, confidence enhances but the opposite occurs when they sell their equities," he added.

The weekly bulletin of the general price index, based on prices of the shares of 60 AFM firms, decreased from 170.9 point to 170.56 or 0.43 per cent.

The number of shares that changed hands during the weekly circulation totalled 2.2 million through 1,531 contracts.

The daily turnover reached JD1.33 million compared with JD740,000 in the previous week.

The industrial sector won the lion's share of the weekly turnover with JD 2.2 million or 42 per cent followed by the banks sector with JD2.1 million or 40.8 per cent.

The services sector came third with JD670,000 or 14.3 per cent and insurance companies fourth with JD150,000 or 2.8 per cent.

The bulletin showed that out of 88 firms, shares of 33 companies have registered gain in its prices, shares of 43 firms recorded loss while 12 enterprises witnessed no change.

REUTERS The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates									
	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	NLG	FRF
US Dollar	1.0000	1.7085	0.5922	1.3930	123.80	1.4108	1672.90	1.9228	5.7140
DE Mark	0.5853	1.0000	0.3456	0.8147	72.50	0.8251	979.89	1.1262	3.3477
GB Sterling	1.6885	2.8890	1.0000	2.3542	209.19	2.3823	2833.44	3.2542	9.6768
CHF Franc	0.7179	1.2257	0.4242	1.0000	88.91	1.0125	1203.73	1.3819	4.1042
JP Yen	0.0081	1.3789	0.4770	1.1239	1.0000	1.1387	13.51	155.29	4.6146
CA Dollar	0.7088	1.2112	0.4183	0.9837	1.14	1.0000	1187.46	1.3622	4.0530
IT Lira	0.0006	1.0195	0.3525	0.0830	1354.28	0.8412	1.0000	11.48	3.4123
NL Guilder	0.5201	0.8566	0.3088	0.7233	84.30	0.7324	869.79	1.0000	2.9706
FR Franc	0.1750	0.2987	0.1033	0.24317	21.63	0.2465	33.65	33.6500	1.0000

Middle Eastern Currencies									
	USD	JOD	SAR	BAH	QAT	KUW	SAU	ISR	EGP
US Dollar	1.0000	0.7080	3.7505	0.3770	3.6405	0.3030	3.6727	1.9250	3.4005
Jordan Dinar	1.4124	1.0000	5.2973	0.5325	5.1419	0.4280	5.1874	2.1548	4.8080
Saudi Riyal	0.2686	0.1888	1.0000	0.1005	0.97	0.0808	0.98	406.75	0.9067
Bahraini Dinar	2.85	1.8781	9.9488	1.0000	9.88	0.8038	8.74	404.63	0.9284
Qatar Dinar	0.2747	0.1945	1.0302	1.0000	1.03	0.832	1.01	419.04	0.9341
Kuwait Dinar	3.3003	2.3368	12.3779	1.2442	12.01	1.0000	12.12	5034.95	0.9341
Emirates Dinar	0.2723	0.1928	1.0212	1.0108	0.9912	0.8825	1.01	415.36	0.9259
Lebanese L1000	0.65	0.4641	2.4585	0.2471	2.3864	0.1986	2.4075	1.0000	2.2291
Egyptian	0.2941	0.2082	1.1029	0.1109	1.0706	0.0891	1.0800	448.61	1.0000

Mid-East Currencies									
	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	NLG	FRF
SA Riyal	0.2686	0.4555	0.15762	0.37136	33.036	0.4280	5.1874	2.1548	4.8080
AE Dirham	0.2723	0.46512	0.16096	0.37923	33.7359	0.4280	5.1874	2.1548	4.8080
KW Dinar	3.3003	5.63698	1.95084	4.5977	408.831	0.4280	5.1874	2.1548	4.8080
BH Dinar	0.3770	4.63104	1.56814	3.69413	328.623	0.4280	5.1874	2.1548	4.8080
CY Pound	1.9839	3.3884	1.1718	2.7619	245.557	0.4280	5.1874	2.1548	4.8080

Currency Deposit Rates (Bid)									
	1M	3M	6M	1Y	2Y	3Y	4Y	5Y	10Y
USD	5.52	5.60	5.70	5.82	5.87	5.92	5.97	6.02	6.07
GBP	7.38	7.50	7.59	7.62	7.68	7.73	7.78	7.83	7.88
JPY	0.37	0.38	0.37	0.37	0.38	0.39	0.40	0.41	0.42
DEM	3.54	3.57	3.65	3.75	3.90	4.10	4.30	4.50	4.70
FRF	3.50	3.72	3.73	3.89	4.03	4.17	4.31	4.45	4.59
CHF	1.72	1.84	2.03	2.12	2.22	2.32	2.42	2.52	2.62
ITL	6.67	6.81	6.93	7.04	7.14	7.24	7.34	7.44	7.54

JOD Cross Rates									
	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	NLG	FRF
US Dollar	1.0000	1.7085	0.5922	1.3930	123.80	1.4108	1672.90	1.9228	5.7140
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FR Franc	0.1750	0.2987	0.1033	0.24317	21.63	0.2465	33.65	33.6500	1.0000

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET														
HOUSING BANK CENTER - AMMAN - JORDAN														
TELEPHONE: 407171 / 407179														
ORGANIZED MARKET TRADING ACTIVITY FOR THE PERIOD (01/11/1997 - 05/11/1997)														
WEEKLY REPORT														
DURING THE LAST 3 WEEKS														
HIGH	LOW	COMPANY NAME	P/E	DIV	NO. OF CONTRACTS	NO. OF SHARES	VALUE TRADED JD	OPENING PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSING PRICE	CHANGE	AVERAGE	NO. OF TRADING DAYS
335.000	328.000	ARAB BANK	15.1	3.22	15	1080	354595	330.00	330.00	328.00	-1.00	329.162	0.25	3
1.930	1.820	JOR. NATIONAL BANK	-	0.00	58	53285	94571	1.84	1.83	1.80	-0.03	1.812	-0.027	4
5.000	4.800	CAIRO AMMAN BANK	10.5	2.94	2	8020	40902	5.00	5.10	5.10	0.10	5.100	0.100	1
3.800	2.900	BANK OF JORDAN	6.2	0.00	6	1500	4409	2.93	2.93	2.93	0.00	2.939	0.014	4
1.170	1.090	HID. EAST INV. CO.	12.4	0.00	21	28000	30700	1.09	1.12	1.12	0.03	1.094	-0.006	1
2.600	2.490	INDUSTRIAL DEV. BK.	10.3	6.13	65	150025	382088	2.54	2.59	2.52	-0.05	2.547	-0.028	4
5.060	4.980	THE HOUSING BK.	15.2	3.80	50	203508	1035459	5.04	5.10	5.10	0.06	5.089	-0.014	4
3.450	2.980	JOR. FINANCIAL BANK	11.6	0.00	29	16475	54776	3.29	3.35	3.28	-0.07	3.325	-0.165	3
1.900	1.760	JOR. GULF BANK	6.7	0.04	10	9075	7159	1.76	1.78	1.78	0.02	1.789	0.045	3
3.970	3.780	ARAB JOR. INV. BK.	12.1	0.00	3	15750	34828	3.85	3.97	3.97	0.12	3.970	0.120	1
3.680	3.430	JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	14.4	3.38	30	13320	47711	3.41	3.61	3.55	-0.06	3.582	-0.091	4
1.720	1.200	UNION BK. SAV. INV.	16.8	0.00	3	25000	30000	1.21	1.20	1.20	-0.01	1.200	-0.142	1
3.900	3.760	JOR. INV. PTN. BANK	24.5	0.00	6	5450	20819	3.83	3.85	3.81	-0.04	3.820	-0.055	6
1.940	1.880	INVT. AL-KAL (SEITSA)	4.6	16.13	28	6850	4379	1.90	1.93	1.87	-0.03	1.903	-0.243	2
BANKS SECTOR														
1.920	1.870	JOR. FRENCH ISSUR.	5.5	7.49	3	2450	5242	1.87	1.95	1.86	-0.08	1.904	-0.125	2
2.150	2.090	ARAB LIFE INSUR.	8.4	4.55	10	64912	142806	2.15	2.20	2.20	0.05	2.200	0.246	1
INSURANCE SECTOR														
1.990	1.820	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	9.1	5.29	95	84292	159233	1.88	1.90	1.88	-0.01	1.889	-0.042	4
8.000	8.000	JOR. HOTEL TOURISM	11.5	1.38	8	27500	217510	8.00	8.10	7.50	-0.60	7.997	-0.003	

Senna prosecution sums up

IMOLA (AFP) — State prosecutor Maurizio Passarini began his summing up of the case against Frank Williams and five other men here on Friday, as the trial continued over the death of Ayrton Senna.

Williams, his technical director Patrick Head and the Formula One team's chief designer at the time, Adrian Newey, all face manslaughter charges — along with three race officials at the 1994 San Marino Grand Prix.

The case against the six is of alleged negligence, over the car and the circuit respectively, and all face a maximum sentence of five years in jail. A verdict is expected around mid-December.

Passarini claims that Senna's steering column failed as he approached the high-speed Tamborello bend, causing him to crash into a concrete wall. He has indicted race officials over alleged failings in the track.

All six of the accused have denied the charges. The evidence showed Senna's car suffered from over-steer, as he approached Tamborello. The Brazilian eased up on the accelerator and then took his foot off the pedal

completely, without changing to his line.

"This failure to change his trajectory is very surprising," Passarini said, before adding: "The conclusion is that he was unable to because the steering column had failed."

The prosecutor then called up drawings of the changes made to Senna's column in order to shorten it; namely that a 18mm diameter section was inserted into the 22mm original column.

The prosecution's drawings indicated metal fatigue where the new section was connected with the rest of the column.

Passarini later produced further video evidence from the onboard camera, which compared the position of a button on Senna's steering wheel during previous laps, and that of his final lap as he approached Tamborello.

The pictures showed the button move out of view in the final lap, indicating, Passarini argued, that something was wrong with the steering column.

Classic favourite Skip Away in the spotlight

LOS ANGELES (AFP) — Classic favourite Skip Away assumes the spotlight Saturday in a Breeders' Cup beset by injuries, the most recent the career-ending broken leg suffered by Singpiel on Thursday.

The four-year-old gray, trained by Sonny Hine and owned by his wife, Carolyn, was an impressive winner of the Jockey Club Gold Cup in October.

In the one and a quarter mile Classic, the showpiece of the seven-race Breeders' Cup card, he'll likely be vying for Horse of the Year honours with three-year-old Touch Gold, who denied Silver Charm the U.S. Triple Crown with a victory in the Belmont Stakes.

Two other three-year-old late bloomers are entered: Deputy Commander, winner of the Travers Stakes and the Super Derby, and Behrens, who defeated Touch Gold in the Pegasus.

But injuries have shadowed the buildup to the 1997 Breeders' Cup. Of the 94 horses pre-entred, only 76 were left on Thursday.

No less than five contenders have been sidelined in less than a week. Singpiel, the all-time leading money winner in British racing, with career earnings of \$5,952,825, suffered a condylar fracture of the right foreleg during a morning gallop on Thursday.



"Touch Gold" gets a morning bath from his stable hand November 6 at Hollywood Park, site of the Breeders' Cup. The horse is entered in the \$4 million Breeders' Cup Classic, and will meet fellow Horse of the Year candidate "Skip Away" for the first time (Reuters photo)

Instead of bidding to become the first British entry to win a Breeders' Cup race in California, Singpiel is slated for surgery this weekend.

defections, there's still some great horses out there," Baffert said he saw no real pattern to the injuries. "It's the end of the year."

himself in his stall. Other possible runners, Honor Glide and Japanese entry Taiki Blizzard both opted for the Classic. That leaves Spinning

BREEDERS CUP PREVIEW

Barring complications, the Sheikh Mohammed-owned five-year-old will then be retired to stud.

He had been the favourite in the \$2 million Turf, a role that now falls to Chief Bearhart or perhaps French entry Rajpoute.

The Classic had already lost Silver Charm, winner of the Kentucky Derby and Preakness, as well as the highly regarded Gentlemen and just last week Formal Gold.

Veteran trainer Bob Baffert said the races still offered plenty of quality.

"The Classic, that's one of those races that lot of people are going to be coming up to the window and scratching their heads," he said. "Even though there's been a lot of

these horses have been running hard," he said. "Also, there's so many horses involved in the Breeders' Cup. I think it's just wear and tear."

The Distaff lost top contender Twice the Vice, who had to be retired after breaking her left front cannon bone.

But the one and one eighth-mile Distaff is still packed with talent. John Kimmel has guided four-year-old Hidden Lake to the top of the filly and mare division with four straight graded stakes victories in New York.

Her challengers will include defending Distaff champion Jewell Princess. The withdrawals have not spared the Mile, with top contender Anet missing the race after hurting

World, winner of three of four starts this year as the favourite, Cash Asmusen will be aboard looking for his first trip to the winners' circle in 22 Breeders' Cup races.

London-born, Kentucky-based trainer Patrick Byrne saddles the favourites in the remaining three races, the Juvenile, the Juvenile Fillies and the Sprint.

Favorite Trick will be going for his eighth win in his eighth start as a two-year-old in the mile and one-sixteenth Juvenile.

Byrne's Countess Diana is the strong favourite in the Juvenile Fillies, and Richter Scale is favoured in the six-furlong Sprint.

Tale of the Cat, expected to battle Richter Scale, was withdrawn due to injury on Tuesday.

Brewers officially shift to National League

MILWAUKEE (AFP) — Pitchers will hit in Milwaukee once again, as one of baseball's worst-kept secrets finally became official on Thursday.

The Milwaukee Brewers won approval from Major League Baseball's ruling executive council and shifted to the National League under a limited realignment plan. The newest members of the NL Central Division are the first team to transfer leagues.

The move, essentially agreed upon before the end of the season, became official Thursday afternoon.

Brewers owner and acting commissioner Bud Selig, who also is chairman of the executive council, made the announcement.

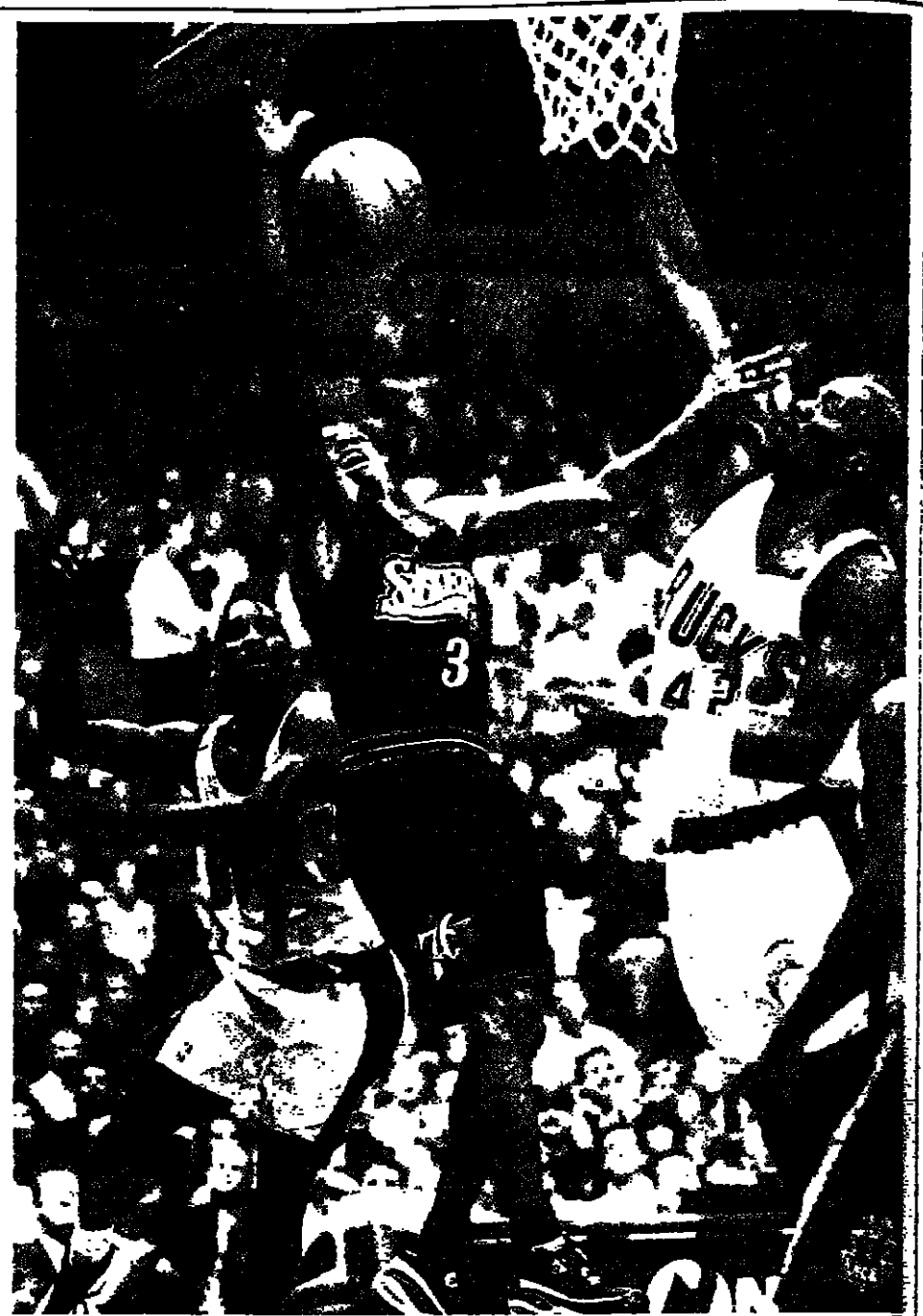
Phase One of the realignment plan also moved the Detroit Tigers from the American League East to the Central and placed the expansion Tampa Bay Devil Rays in the AL East. The shift by the Brewers creates a 16-team National League and a 14-team American League, and avoids the need for continuous interleague play.

Each league will continue to have three divisions.

The Kansas City Royals were given the first option at switching leagues, but, leaving the decision to an eager Brewers franchise. Selig grew up rooting for the National League's Milwaukee Braves, who moved to Atlanta in 1966.

Switching leagues is perceived as beneficial to the Brewers, who will have instant rivalries with the Chicago Cubs and St. Louis Cardinals in the NL Central. In 1953, their first season in Milwaukee following a move from Boston, the Braves set a then-NL attendance record.

The Brewers are now grouped with the Cubs, Cardinals, Houston Astros, Pittsburgh Pirates and St. Louis Cardinals. The AL Central includes the Tigers, Royals, Chicago White Sox, Cleveland Indians and Minnesota Twins. The East now consists of Tampa Bay, the New York Yankees, Baltimore Orioles, Toronto Blue Jays and Boston Red Sox.



Philadelphia 76ers guard Allen Iverson (C) reaches for an offensive rebound with Milwaukee Bucks forward Tyrone Hill (R) and guard Terrell Brandon in the first quarter at the Bradley Centre in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Milwaukee won 100-93 (Reuters photo)

New quarterbacks ignite New York teams

NEW YORK (AFP) — Glenn Foley and Danny Kanell were backup quarterbacks two months ago when the National Football League season began.

Now they are the toast of Broadway, the new starting quarterbacks for New York's division-leading American football teams entering away games this Sunday.

Foley will guide the Jets against Miami with New York (6-3) owning a one-game AFC East division lead on the host Dolphins as well as New England and Buffalo, who also meet Sunday.

Kanell, who has guided the Giants to five triumphs in a row, takes the NFC East leaders to Tennessee. The Giants (6-3) are one game ahead of Washington and two above Dallas and Philadelphia.

Foley has made Neil O'Donnell the richest reserve in the sport. Jets coach Bill Parcells made the decision this week to bench the man with the five-year, \$25 million contract in favor of Foley.

"It's not an easy thing but you've got to do what you think is best at this moment," Parcells said. "The team responded better to Foley."

Foley was promoted after sparking the Jets to back-to-back victories. Last week he drove New York 60 yards in 12 plays to set up an over-time field goal that beat Baltimore.

Before that he replaced O'Donnell against New England, the team Parcells coached to the Super Bowl in January, and connected on 17 of 23 passes for 200 yards, rallying the Jets to a 24-19 victory.

"I looked at some opportunities presented to both guys," Parcells said. "It's very lopsided percentage-wise in what has transpired."

O'Donnell has made four touchdowns in his past 37 possessions. Foley has generated three in only seven attempts.

"I'm excited," Foley said. "This is what I have been waiting for, a chance to play on a first-place team."

O'Donnell's career has crashed since he left Pittsburgh after a Super Bowl season for big money from the once-wealthy Jets.

"I don't know what to think," O'Donnell said. "I want to play. I don't want to be a backup. I still believe I am a big leader of this football team."

Parcells said the switch might not be permanent, adding, "I'm not worried about long-term effects on

this team. Things change in this game. Two or three weeks can be a lifetime."

The Giants are unbeaten since Kanell replaced Dave Brown, who remains sidelined by a torn chest muscle.

"If I were coach I would do the same thing," Brown said. "No sense changing when the team is on a five-game win streak."

Kanell has completed 58 of 109 passes for three touchdowns. When asked why he has made Kanell the starter even if Brown were healthy, Giants coach Jim Fassel said, "Five wins. He has been very efficient."

"I'll keep trying to do things the same way I have been," Kanell said. Division foe Dallas needs to avoid that. The Cowboys, denying reports that coach Barry Switzer's job is in jeopardy, play host to Arizona in need of a victory to reach 5-5.

The Cowboys have a losing record for the first time since 1990 and have never reached the playoffs or managed a winning season with a record so bad so late in the season. The NFL's winningest clubs, Denver and San Francisco, enter the week 8-1. Denver will play host to Carolina. The 49ers travel to Philadelphia on Monday night.

Sunday's other games find Chicago at Minnesota, Cincinnati at winless Indianapolis, Detroit at Washington, St. Louis at Green Bay, Tampa Bay at Atlanta, New Orleans at Oakland, New England at Buffalo, Seattle at San Diego, Kansas City at Jacksonville and Baltimore at Pittsburgh.

Under the Patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor
Jordan Society for Development
Bani Hamida
Welcome you to the Fall Exhibition
"Encounter"
On display are rugs designed by the Japanese textile designer
"Tomoko Iyoda" (a member of JOCV/JICA)
Japan International Cooperation Agency
woven by the Bani Hamida weavers
On Thursday, 6 Nov., thru Tuesday, 25 Nov., 1997
at The Bani Hamida House
1st Circle, off Rainbow St.
Open daily from 8:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.
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SALE OF SURPLUS ITEMS
The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) announces the selling of used surplus items consisting of Computers, Printers, Office Equipment and Office Furniture.
Interested buyers are kindly requested to call at the Purchase & Transportation Unit of ESCWA (room 302), located in Shmeisani, Abdel Hamid Sharaf Street, by not later than the closing of business (2 p.m.) on Thursday, 13 November 1997, to obtain the Sale Bid documents and the list of items available for sale and to arrange for the inspection of the items at ESCWA Central Stores. The deadline for submission of offers shall be Wednesday, 19 November 1997, 12:00 hours noon.

GOREN BRIDGE
WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNIAH HIRSH
WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ
Q. 1 - East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
AA53 01092 0K965 AA7
The bidding has proceeded:
SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
1D Pass 1A Pass
2 What do you bid now?
Q. 2 - Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
AA564 0K 0AK55 AAQ88
What is your opening bid?
Q. 3 - Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
AAK10642 0K983 062 AA
The bidding has proceeded:
SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
1A Pass 20 Pass
2 What do you bid now?
Q. 4 - Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
Answers:
Q. 1 - 1097 0K 0Q73 4KQJ1095
The bidding has proceeded:
SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
Pass Pass 10 Pass
2 What do you bid now?
Q. 2 - Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
AKQJ9852 07 01096 473
The bidding has proceeded:
SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
2A Pass 3NT Pass
2 What action do you take?
Q. 3 - As South, vulnerable, you hold:
AAQ1063 0AQJ10 0AJ9 49
The bidding has proceeded:
SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
1A Pass 4A Pass
2 What do you bid now?

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Shishani wins speed test but Daoud clinches overall championship

By Roufan Nahhas
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — While Aidmer Shishani won Friday's speed test Ahmad Daoud was crowned 1997 overall speed test champion in spite of taking second place in the Pepsi Speed Test.

Yanal Qomog came third and captured second place in the overall championship followed by Yasser Jarrar in the third place

ending the season's speed tests.

Aidmer Shishani took the first place by storm in his Opel Ascona clocking 02:51.44 and surprised Qomog and Daoud who were relaxed in taking the lead in the first round.

Ahmad Daoud followed in his Renault 5 GT Turbo with a time of 02:53.12 in second place and Yanal Qomog in a Renault 5 Turbo came third clocking 02:54.37.

Twenty seven of the best drivers

in the Kingdom registered for the race but only 22 took part in event organised by the Royal Automobile Club of Jordan (RACJ).

Only three ladies took part in the event in which Abeer Batikhi's reign over her colleagues and took first place.

Maya Mufti left the race before the end of the second round and Sawsan Batikhi in her Hyundai Accent clocked 03:41.36.

"We are satisfied that everything

went well in the event," RACJ spokesman Bader Rasheed told the Jordan Times.

"RACJ still has two major events to go," he added. "A rally tour and 4X4 Rally," he added.

The 9th speed test for the 1997 season was held under the Patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Faisal Ben Al Hussein who closely watched the event and handed trophies to participants at RACJ headquarters.



Robert Vagner (L) of Slavia Prague pushes the ball past Nice's Frederic Martin (R) during the second round, second leg match of their Cup Winners' Cup match in Prague (Reuters photo)

Al Orthodoxi's ladies win soccer tournament

By Roufan Nahhas
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The ladies of Al Orthodoxi soccer team were crowned champions of the first outdoor Women's Soccer Tournament after crushing the British Embassy team 5-1 Friday.

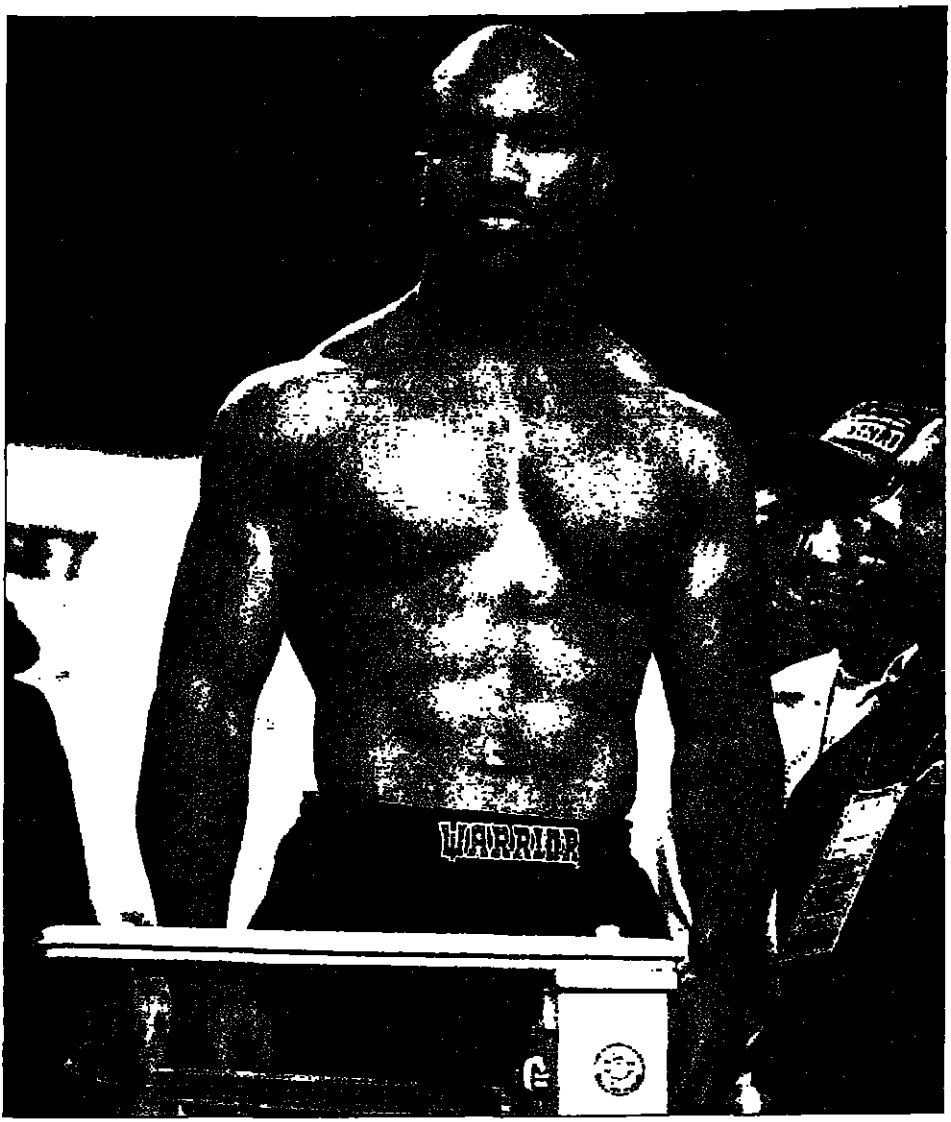
Al Orthodoxi's Alia Tufaha was the star of the match with a hat-trick followed by another two goals from Hana Abu Roos and Dina Abu Zeid.

The British Embassy had reached the final match after beating the American School 2-0 while Al Orthodoxi overcame Arab Al Yawm 1-0 in the semi-finals from an own goal by Maha Awwad which landed between her team's goal posts.

The three-day event organised by Arab Al Yawm daily newspaper and the British Embassy included teams from the British Embassy, Al Orthodoxi Club, the American School, Al Bayan School, Arab Al Yawm and the Unified Zarqa Schools team.

The event was held under the Patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Ben Al Hussein and HRH Princess Rania.

Trophies and prizes were handed to the winning team at the British Embassy Club in Abdoun.



WBA heavyweight champion Evander Holyfield stands on the scales, during the weigh-in for his World title fight, against IBF heavyweight champion Michael Moorer. Holyfield and Moorer will fight November 8 to unify their two titles (Reuters photo)

Moorer outweighs Holyfield for heavyweight showdown

LAS VEGAS (AFP) — Michael Moorer weighed in nine pounds (4 kilograms) heavier than Evander Holyfield for their heavyweight boxing championship showdown here Saturday.

At the weighing-in ceremony Thursday, International Boxing Federation champion Moorer weighed 223 pounds (101 kg) while World Boxing Association ruler Holyfield was at 214 pounds (97 kg).

Holyfield weighed 214

when he lost a split decision to Moorer here 3 1/2 years ago. Moorer was at 214 for that fight as well but sees no great harm in being heavier.

"I look at it as nine pounds of muscle," Moorer said. "I'm ready for the fight. I'm not worried about it."

Moorer weighed 212 in his most recent fight, a March defence against Vaughn Bean, and complained he was too light after too much training.

"A lot of people make

big things about weight," Moorer said. "When you get older, it's harder for the weight to come off. I have done everything I was supposed to do."

Holyfield, who weighed 218 when he won by disqualification when Tyson bit his ears last June, said the sizes matter little.

"Most of the time weight doesn't make the difference, unless it makes a difference to the fighter who has to carry it," he said.

European Cup Winners Cup Chelsea, Vicenza in quarters

LONDON (AFP) — Chelsea thrashed Norwegian Tromso 7-1 on Thursday night for a 9-4 aggregate win to put them into the quarter-finals as 2-1 favourites for the European Cup Winners Cup.

A Luca Vialli hat-trick, two goals from Dan Petrescu and one a piece from Gianfranco Zola and Franck Leboeuf complete crushed the Norwegians who scored through Bjorn Johansen six minutes before the break.

Roud Gullit's cosmopolitan all-star team went into the game needing to wipe out the embarrassment of their 3-2 first-leg deficit in farcical conditions in Norway two weeks ago. But their entry into the quarter-finals next March looked beyond all reasonable doubt even before Petrescu and Vialli both scored in the opening 23 minutes. The Norwegians had only muscular commitment and dogged defending to offer in response — until Johansen's stunning 25-yard drive exploded past goalkeeper Ed De Goey to rudely interrupt Chelsea's complete dominance in the 37th minute.

Even then, it took only five minutes more for Zola to restore proof of the huge gap between the two sides, after Roberto Di Matteo was pulled down on the edge of the box by a foul which brought Steinar Nilsen a booking.

Zola curled and dipped a magnificent freekick over the Tromso wall for a spectacular third Chelsea goal.

Chelsea made a surpris-

ingly sluggish start to the second half, but the award of a penalty and the consequent sending-off of Tromso's Jonny Hansen put them back in total command in the 54th minute.

Hansen seemed hard done by when Ukrainian referee Vasily Melnichuk decided he had deliberately handled Wise's shot from a Petrescu pass and the yellow card was quickly followed by the red after the defender complained too vociferously.

Leboeuf deepened Tromso's agony by comfortably converting the spotkick. Six minutes later Chelsea had a nap hand of goals for a 7-4 aggregate lead when Tromso, amazingly committing too many men forward, were left completely exposed at the back, with Petrescu and Vialli both running free.

Grensen bravely came off his line to block the Romanian's shot, but Vialli joyfully followed up the rebound and slid it into an empty net for his second goal of the match and his fourth in the tie.

Tromso were determined to go down with all guns firing and they nearly pulled a goal back when Berntsen escaped the marking on the right flank of Chelsea's under-employed defence, but

drove his cross-shot beyond the far post. Vialli completed his hat-trick with an unstoppable header from Wise's right-wing cross to make it 6-1 on the night in the 71st minute and Petrescu hit Chelsea's seventh four minutes from time. VfB Stuttgart kept up Germany's presence in the competition, but they lost 4-2 at home to Belgium side Ekeren. However Stuttgart had to play the second half with 10 men when Switzerland's Murat Yakin was sent off just before half-time.

Vicenza, just seventh in the Italian table, also earned their last eight ticket after beating Chakthor Donetsk of the Ukraine 2-1, and 5-2 on aggregate.

Second division Nice drew 1-1 in Slavia Prague, but lost on away goals following Slavia's 2-2 draw on French soil. However the Riviera club could be satisfied with their performance and were within 15 minutes of making the quarter-finals. Franck Vandecasteele hit a magnificent volley in the 75th minute to put Nice ahead and give them hope. But five minutes later, Pavel Labant headed home to end their dream.

Stockholm Open Rafter, Rusedski win

STOCKHOLM (AFP) — Tim Henman saved a match point with an ace but couldn't keep up the heroics to suffer a 6-3, 6-3 defeat in the quarter-finals of the \$825,000 Stockholm Open Friday by top seed Patrick Rafter.

But British interest was kept up by No. 2 seed Greg Rusedski, who advanced on a walkover against unseeded Swede Magnus Larsson, who withdrew through illness before the start.

The irony of the situation was evident as Rusedski had spent two days in bed this week fighting off a virus after winning an opening-round match on Monday at Kungliga Tennishallen. He beat Frenchman Lionel Roux on Thursday in the second round.

"I guess Magnus got the bug that I had," said World No. 5 Rusedski, who will now have an extra day to rest before facing either Wimbledon finalist Cedric Pioline of France or Dutchman Jan Siemerink, the journeyman who upset Boris Becker on Thursday night in the second round.

"I'm in shock," said Rusedski, heading to Hanover next week for the ATP World Championship. "I was practicing on a court next to Magnus this morning and everything seemed fine."

"A little later his coach came up to me and said 'well done.' I didn't know why and then he told me that Magnus could not play."

There was no such luck for compatriot Henman, who failed to take advantage of his early chances in his 6-3, 6-3 loss to top seed Patrick Rafter.

The Australian, the man who claimed the U.S. Open title over British No. 1 Rusedski, spent 69 minutes in attacking Henman's game with serve-and-volley brilliance.

The Briton had break points in Rafter's first three service games. "If I had taken my chances, I could have been up 5-0, as it was, I was down 3-2. I created enough opportunities. If you have break point in three games and don't take them, that's the story of the match."

Henman said Rafter, whom he played for the first time, played at a consistently high level.

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China's missed penalty kills World Cup hopes; Qatar wins

RIYADH (AFP) — A missed penalty by skipper Fan Zhiyi in the 1-1 draw with Saudi Arabia here may have cost China's hopes of reaching the World Cup finals for the first time.

The result from Thursday night's match only aided Iran who are now virtually guaranteed of finishing in the key top two places in Asian Group A. The first side in each of the two Asian groups goes straight into the finals and the second teams go into playoffs.

Fan's weak spot kick five minutes before half-time ruined China's chances of staying in contention in the qualifying battle.

Saudi Arabia, finalists in 1994, went ahead after just

four minutes with the first of the match's two brilliant goals.

Despite the pressure of playing before around 80,000 fanatical Saudi fans, China were back level within 10 minutes.

The first half continued at a furious pace that neither side could possibly keep up. After Fan's missed penalty, Saudi dampened the Chinese attack in the second half and missed

a penalty of their own when Ou saved Moussaad's spot kick after Al Jabir was brought down.

Saudi Arabia are now in second place on 11 points with one match to play. If they lose, China could still draw level with the Saudis if they beat Kuwait next Wednesday, but the Saudi goal difference is far superior.

Group A Standings after Qatar's 2-0 win over Iran Friday							
	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
Iran	8	3	3	2	13	8	12
S. Arabia	7	3	2	2	7	6	11
Qatar	7	3	1	3	5	9	10
Kuwait	7	2	2	3	7	7	8
China	7	2	2	3	10	14	8

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Netanyahu calls settlement construction a 'non-issue'

TEL AVIV (AP) — Dismissing U.S. calls for a timeout in Jewish settlement construction, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Friday the growth of the settlements in occupied territories was a "non-issue."

Addressing Jewish-American leaders, Mr. Netanyahu also said he would not suspend construction while the Palestinians, according to him, are building without restrictions in their areas.

The Israeli prime minister's defiant remarks came as Israeli and Palestinian negotiators wrapped up a week of U.S.-hosted peace talks in Washington with few tangible results.

The Israelis said some progress was made.

However, the Palestinians said the talks did not move forward on the two key issues — demands that Israel halt settlement expansion and fulfil its U.S.-backed promise to pull back troops in the West Bank in three stages by mid-1998.

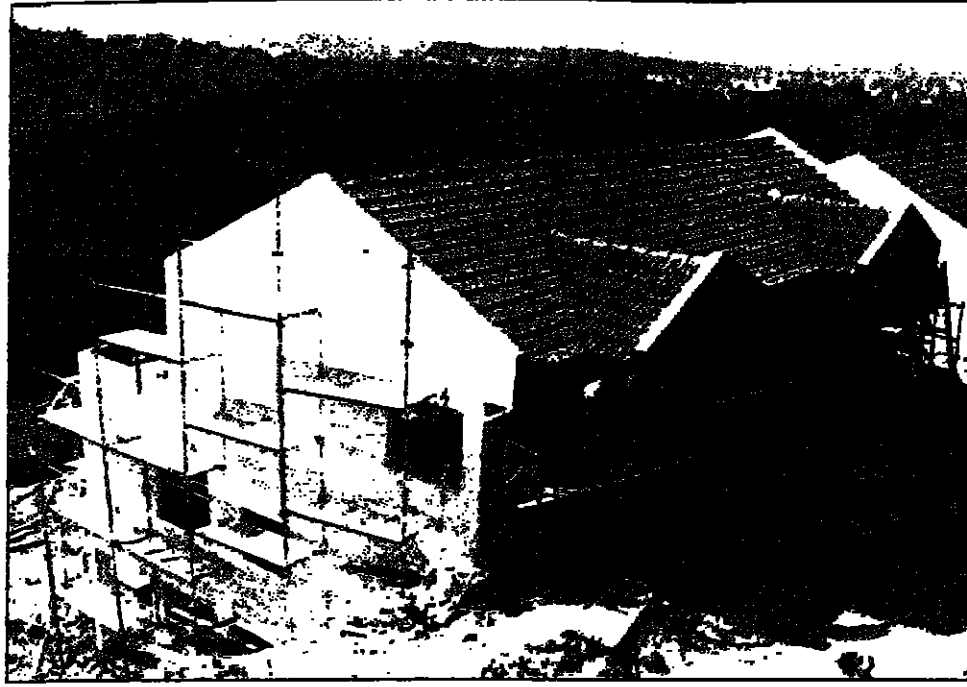
"The delegation went to Washington in order to secure a deal on further redeployment and settlements," Ahmad Abdul Rahman, the secretary general of the Palestinian cabinet told the Associated Press. "This did not happen. So I would not say that there is reason for optimism."

In contrast, Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy was upbeat Friday. "The meeting was started under a cloud of pessimism. We had good meetings. We met night and day. There was progress," Mr. Levy told an airport news conference upon his return from Washington.

In justifying his refusal to pull back troops, Mr. Netanyahu has said he could not hand over more land until the Palestinians made more of an effort to rein in Islamists responsible for more than a dozen suicide bombings in Israel since 1994.

Mr. Netanyahu has also given no sign that he would slow the construction of Jewish settlements. U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright had asked Israel for a timeout in construction for the duration of negotiations.

Asked about settlement



A Palestinian labourer at work on a new settlement unit in the West Bank of Alfei Menashe settlement Friday. Israel will begin building 300 new homes on a hilltop in this West Bank settlement enclave in two weeks, defying U.S. calls for a 'time-out' in building activity in occupied West Bank and Gaza (Reuters photo)

expansion Friday. Mr. Netanyahu told leaders of the Los Angeles Jewish community: "It's a non-issue. It's a political issue. When people say, 'you are preempting a final [peace] settlement by building facts on the ground,' I say that, number one, the facts are not all that big and number two, the Palestinians are all the time building thousands and thousands of illegal housing units."

"I think that the idea of a timeout cannot be a unilateral Israeli exercise," Mr. Netanyahu said.

On Thursday, Israel's housing ministry published a tender for the construction of 72 new settlement units in the West Bank settlement of Alfei Menashe, said Mossi Raz, spokesman of the Peace Now group which monitors settlement construction.

The new units are part of an overall plan, approved in December 1996 by Defence Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, for 300 new units in Alfei Menashe, Mr. Raz said.

Israeli-U.S. relations have become increasingly strained because of disagreement on the settlement issue.

Mr. Netanyahu is leaving for the United States next week to address Jewish American leaders and so far has failed to get an appointment at the White House —

Settler leader says Israel to build 300 new units

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Israel will begin building 300 new units in the Jewish settlement of Alfei Menashe in the West Bank in two weeks, a settler leader said Thursday.

The defence ministry, whose approval is needed for all settlement construction in the occupied West Bank and Gaza, said the project had been authorised a year ago but gave no further details.

The housing ministry

published a tender in an Israeli newspaper on Thursday asking for bids on construction of what appeared to be the first stage of the project — 72 settlement units.

"The homes will be built on a hill as a continuation of [Alfei Menashe]," Shlomo Katan, head of the Jewish District Council in the area, told Reuters. "We have received the permits."

with Mr. Netanyahu on Wednesday in London during a stopover en route to the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic conference in Doha, Qatar. Mr. Levy's aides said Friday.

Ms. Albright has also requested to meet with President Arafat on Nov. 14 or Nov. 15 in Geneva. Mr. Abdul Rahman said.

Nine negotiating committees dealing with outstanding issues from peace agreements already signed, such as a safe passage for the Palestinians between the West Bank and Gaza Strip, will resume their work on Sunday, Mr. Levy said.

Denktash says his breakaway republic is to stay

ANKARA (AFP) — Turkish-Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş said in remarks published Friday that his self-declared republic is here to stay despite international efforts to reunify the divided Mediterranean island of Cyprus.

"The Greek-Cypriots should stop believing that they can convert the whole of Cyprus into their republic, that they can make us remove the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) forever from the map of Cyprus," Mr. Denktaş told the English-language Turkish Daily News.

He blamed the European Union (EU), which is preparing to formally invite the eastern Mediterranean island's internationally recognised Greek-Cypriot Cyprus government to EU membership talks next year, for escalating tensions in the region also involving Turkey and Greece.

"The EU has completely destroyed the chances for a settlement. Due to the EU policy, the Greek-Cypriots don't and won't make any compromises," he said.

Mr. Denktaş declared the TRNC in 1983, but his breakaway state is recognised only by Ankara which still keeps some 35,000 troops there.

Netanyahu testifies for second time over assassination fiasco Mossad rehearsed Hamas assassination bid on Tel Aviv streets

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu testified Friday for the second time before a commission investigating an attempt by Israeli agents to assassinate a Hamas leader in Amman, the radio said.

Mr. Netanyahu gave the commission details about the procedure — poison application — used in the attempt by two agents of the Mossad intelligence agency to kill Khaled Misha'al in Amman on Sept. 25.

The prime minister, who is ultimately in charge of the Mossad, had already appeared before the commission on Oct. 27 to explain what information he had been given by security officials before giving the green light for the operation.

The commission was created by Mr. Netanyahu to "clarify" what went wrong in the attack, which outraged Jordan, the Arab country that has displayed the warmest ties to Israel, to the point where King Hussein nearly broke off relations with the Jewish state.

Mr. Netanyahu admitted "ultimate responsibility" for ordering the attack, but rejected calls by former Prime Minister Shimon Peres that he resign for the operation, which critics have slammed as ill-planned and politically disastrous.

Mossad chief Danny Yatom testified before the commission several days ago and pinned responsibility for the operation on Mr. Netanyahu.

Mossad rehearsed

Hamas assassination

bid on Tel Aviv streets

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The Israeli hit squad behind the attempt to murder a Hamas leader in Jordan first practised their exotic assassination mission on the crowded streets of Tel Aviv, the Haaretz newspaper reported Friday.

Two agents of Israel's Mossad intelligence service were captured in September while trying to murder Khaled Misha'al, Hamas political chief, in Amman.

The agents sprayed Mr. Misha'al with a mysterious poison which was supposed to kill him hours or even days later without anyone knowing he had been murdered.

But Israel was forced to provide an antidote to save the Hamas leader's life in order to obtain the release of the Mossad men.

Haaretz said that in the weeks leading up to the assassination attempt, members of the hit team made dozens of mock trials on unsuspecting Tel Avivians.

During the exercise, a Mossad agent would stand in the path of a pedestrian and then open a warm can of Coca-Cola, which would spray onto the "victim."

While the agent was apol-

ogising and helping wipe off the Coca-Cola, another assailant would walk behind the target and spray him unnoticed with mock poison, Haaretz said.

The scheme apparently worked well enough on Tel Aviv's inhabitants to convince Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to order the Sept. 25 hit on Mr. Misha'al.

However, when it came time to try the method for real, the two Mossad agents were spotted in action by one of Mr. Misha'al's bodyguards, who pursued and fought with the Israelis until a passing policeman arrested the assailants.

The attempt on Hamas leader Misha'al's life sparked a major crisis in Israel's relations with Jordan and its monarch, King Hussein.

A government panel named by Mr. Netanyahu has been investigating how the decision to attack Mr. Misha'al in Amman was taken and why it failed.

Mr. Netanyahu testified before the commission for the second time Friday in Tel Aviv.

U.S. sanctions deliver political blow to Sudan

KHARTOUM (R) — New United States sanctions are a political blow to the morale of the Sudanese government just when it is trying to bury the hatchet with its enemies.

The sweeping economic sanctions imposed this week hand the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) a symbolic big stick in their first peace talks with the Sudan government in three years. "The timing of the sanctions is crass," Cyril Townsend, former British parliament member and columnist for Al Hayat newspaper, told Reuters.

"Declaring unilateral sanctions in Washington does give encouragement to [SPLA leader] John Garang."

The timing could only worsen the bargaining power of the government, which analysts say entered the talks already in a state of military weakness and diplomatic isolation.

"I presume that is the motivation behind it," said a diplomat.

U.S. President Bill Clinton on Tuesday signed the sanctions order for Sudan's human rights record and alleged sponsorship of terrorism, a charge Khartoum's Islamist government denies.

"We believe they are ill-timed. We are now in the process of trying to achieve peace in Sudan," Sudan's deputy parliament speaker Abdulaziz Shido said.

"This aggression by the United States would definitely reflect on the atmosphere in the talks in Nairobi," he told Reuters on Thursday.

The Sudan government appears slightly outnumbered at the talks on ending one of Africa's longest-running civil wars.

A grouping of seven African states is chairing the talks. Sudan says three of them — Ethiopia, Eritrea and Uganda — support the SPLA. The three neighbouring states deny it.

Sudan is also working to mend long-standing disputes with its northern neighbour Egypt, which accuses Khartoum of a role in an attempt to kill President Hosni Mubarak in 1995.

"The U.S. talks about us destabilising our neighbours. We think our neighbours destabilise us," Mr. Shido said.

"The sanctions definitely strengthen the rebel position. The rebels would feel Sudan is being targeted and that the U.S. is supporting them. That's why we see them as meaningless for economic ties, which are already very small," he said.

Analysts in Khartoum see the sanctions as politically motivated but dressed up in economic terms, blocking Sudanese assets in the United States and banning loans and bilateral trade.

Sudan has not received loans or grants from the United States at least from the end of 1994, and other bilateral economic ties are minimal. There are no U.S. oil firms active in Sudan and trade is slim.

A State Department spokesman said for some commodities — such as gum Arabic, which is Sudan's only major export to the United States — The U.S. administration would consider issuing licences for "some limited activities important to us."

"Are these sanctions or a joke?" said one Western diplomat.

Washington says the order is aimed at the government and not intended to impede humanitarian work in Sudan. But American non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in Sudan, including Care and International Rescue Committee, will have to ensure they comply to the new regulations.

Aid workers fear the sanctions will scare off non-emergency funding for state institutions, such as for a needy Khartoum orphanage. "Even before the sanctions, there was a tightening of what governments will and will not fund," said one.

The Sudan government said it saw the U.S. move as "giving moral support to the rebels" and vowed to retaliate. Diplomats dismissed the threat, noting Sudan was one of the world's poorest countries.

This week Sudan cut U.S. bank transactions. Mr. Shido said the country could find other ways. "There are American interests in this country. Coke, Pepsi-Cola, Citibank and NGOs," he said.

It is not clear how much foreign support Washington has for the sanctions. Firms from Malaysia, China, Canada and European and Arab states now work in Sudan. Mr. Townsend said he expected the United States to have a run-in with the European union, just as when it put sanctions on Iran in 1995 and then expected non-U.S. firms to comply. "It would like to draw your attention to what happened with Iran," said Mr. Townsend. "There must be the distinct possibility the same thing will happen here."

Israel warns of possible Abu Nidal attack against its businessmen

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel warned Thursday of possible attacks against its businessmen attending the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic conference in Doha, Qatar, particularly by the Fatah-Revolutionary Council (FRC) led by Abu Nidal.

The Foreign Ministry made the warning in security instructions distributed at a meeting of the Israeli Industrialist Association (IIA) in Tel Aviv to prepare for the

MENA conference in Doha, to be held Nov. 16-18.

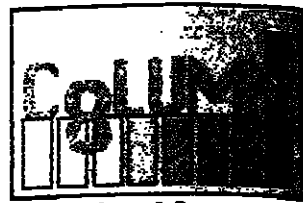
The document accuses the FRC, led by Sabri Khalil Banna, known by the nom de guerre Abu Nidal, of being behind an attempt to kidnap the Qatari ambassador to Yemen in Sanaa last week.

The economic conference "is taking place at a time when extremist groups are becoming more and more of a threat, particularly the Abu Nidal group," said the document, a copy of which was

received by Agence France Presse.

"The Abu Nidal group, which committed the kidnapping attempt against the Qatari ambassador to Yemen on October 29, has threatened to target this conference," the document said.

While presenting the paper to businessmen, a high-ranking Foreign Ministry official warned there was "serious opposition in the Arab World to this conference and Israeli participation in it."



Case closed for Germany's most famous dog

HUERTH (AFP) — German police are hot on the tracks of the man who killed the country's most celebrated dog — a German shepherd called Ben who rose to fame tracking gangsters. This time, however, poor Ben died while pursuing a cat with no known criminal record. The three-and-a-half-year-old dog sprang to fame for his ability to sniff out drug dealers and crooks. Only last week he chased and caught a car thief who was trying to escape on a bicycle. Sadly for Ben, his last case involved a mere cat ambling along the street when Ben's handler, Wilfried Foerster, was about to put him on a leash. Ben escaped Foerster's grasp and raced across the road after the cat, but ran straight into the path of a car. Police are now hunting the owner of the vehicle, who sped off after the incident.

Flying pigs prepare for landing in Vietnam

HANOI (R) — A Jumbo jet with 665 breeding pigs on board will fly into Vietnam from Britain on a mission to go forth and multiply. Among those on hand at Hanoi's airport to meet the pigs' Boeing 747 will be British Ambassador David Fall and officials from Vietnam's ministry of agriculture and rural development.

Chatichai's political star outshines Chuan's

BANGKOK (R) — As Thai politicians jostle for the country's premiership, astrologers appear to have reached a consensus that the stars favour Chatichai Choonhavan to succeed outgoing Prime Minister Chavalit Yongchaiyudh. Former Premier Chatichai, leader of the Chart Pattana Party, and his Democrat Party counterpart Chuan Leekpai, are the two favourite contenders for the top government job. "I do not know much about political bickering but astrology says Chatichai's star is brighter than Khun [Mr. Chuan's]," said Pinyo Pongcharoen, secretary of Thailand's International Astrologists Association.

Venezuela shows off beauty talent at summit

MARGARITA ISLAND (R) — Venezuela has hired scores of former beauty pageant contestants to welcome heads of state and delegates attending a summit on this Caribbean island resort. "It's so that people see that we have many other resources apart from oil," said Helen Margaret Teran, 19, as she greeted visitors. Topping the bill was 20-year-old former Miss World Jacqueline Aguilera, who has been named the "face" of the seventh Ibero-American presidential summit which starts on Saturday. Some of the female journalists, however, complained about the sex bias. "I know we're famous for our misses but they could have had some men as well," said one reporter.

Scientists find gene link between limbs, genitals

LONDON (R) — Genes that are responsible for the development of limbs also control the growth of the genital organs, but there is no parallel in size between them, scientists said. In a Science journal report, Denis Duboule and colleagues at the University of Geneva and the University of Michigan said studies on mice showed that the box genes were vital for both sets of external organs. "But the fact that the same genes are involved in both the limbs and the genital organs does not mean you can infer the size of one by the size of the other," he said.

American Jews ask Netanyahu to block Orthodox legislation

TEL AVIV (AP) — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu assured Jewish American leaders Friday that their Jewishness was not in doubt in Israel despite their bitter showdown with Orthodox rabbis over the validity of their more liberal beliefs.

"All Jews for me are legitimate, all are part of the same people," Mr. Netanyahu told some 400 members of the Los Angeles Jewish Federation in a meeting at an Israeli hotel.

However, many in the audience said they felt that Mr. Netanyahu's message of unity was not enough. Herb Gelfand, president of the Los Angeles Jewish Federation, received an outburst of applause when he turned to Mr. Netanyahu and said: "We ask Israel to oppose the law on conversion."

The dispute over who has the right to carry out conversions in Israel has been at the

core of the confrontation between Orthodox rabbis and the Reform and Conservative streams of Judaism. Reform and Conservative Jews are predominant in the U.S., but in Israel, religious affairs are controlled by the Orthodox.

Mr. Netanyahu has been under pressure from three Orthodox parties in his coalition to fend off efforts by the Reform and Conservative movements to win recognition in Israel with lawsuits over the right to carry out conversions.

In a countermove, the Orthodox parties have threatened to push through parliament a conversion bill that would formalise the current practice of only allowing Orthodox rabbis to carry out conversions.

Earlier this month, a crisis was averted when the two sides agreed to suspend both the lawsuits and the legislation for three months in hopes

of reaching a compromise.

Mr. Netanyahu urged the Los Angeles Jewish leaders Friday to help his efforts to reach such a compromise. "We are trying to achieve an historic reconciliation."

He said a real change could be made in the country's religious status quo, "but it will take time and requires delicate treatment."

However, Rick Nagler, a 53-year-old clothing manufacturer from the Manhattan Beach district of Los Angeles, said he was not satisfied with Mr. Netanyahu's assurances that the conversion issue could be resolved peacefully.

"I think he should have said that no Jew is in the position to determine what makes another Jew legitimate. I don't think he understands how important [the issue] is in America. If he did he would be taking a stronger position," Mr. Nagler said.

Menuhin. Police investigators said Thursday that there was no evidence of an attempted kidnapping for ransom. The Israeli suspects, police said, were private investigators who had trailed the Onassis granddaughter, Athena Roussel, and her father, Thierry Roussel, as part of a battle over control of the girl's trust fund.

The Israelis had been hired by the Greek trustees

to run surveillance on Ms. Roussel, police said. The 12-year-old Athena stands to inherit \$2.4 billion when she turns 18.

In a statement Friday, the Alexander S. Onassis foundation accused Mr. Roussel of launching a press campaign in order to remove his daughter from the control of the trustees, "even in matters of security."

Police found no evidence that the seven, among them former top agents in the Shin Bet security service, were involved in wrongdoing, said Israeli police spokeswoman Linda

Israeli police close case against suspects in kidnapping plot

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israeli police said Friday they have dropped their investigation of seven Israelis suspected by Switzerland of having plotted to kidnap the granddaughter of Greek shipping tycoon Aristotle Onassis.

Police found no evidence that the seven, among them former top agents in the Shin Bet security service, were involved in wrongdoing, said Israeli police spokeswoman Linda

Menuhin. Police investigators said Thursday that there was no evidence of an attempted kidnapping for ransom. The Israeli suspects, police said, were private investigators who had trailed the Onassis granddaughter, Athena Roussel, and her father, Thierry Roussel, as part of a battle over control of the girl's trust fund.

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Israeli police close case against suspects in kidnapping plot